ARMY RESERVE

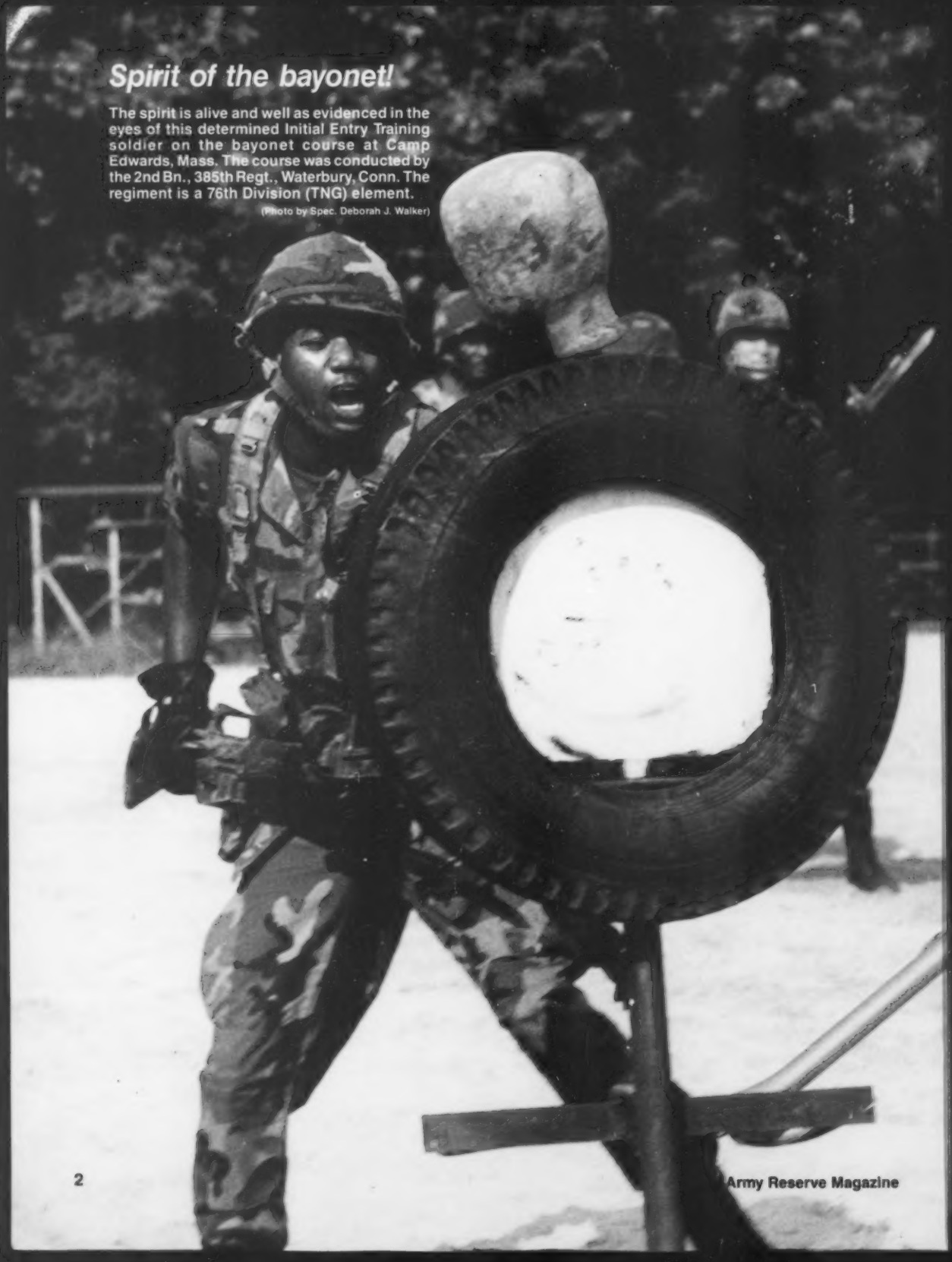
SECOND ISSUE OF 1991

Picking up after the 'Storm' in Kuwait

USAR Civil Affairs units assessed, inventoried damage in Kuwait City's harbor

Operation Desert Storm

coverage starts on page 8



Spirit of the bayonet!

The spirit is alive and well as evidenced in the eyes of this determined Initial Entry Training soldier on the bayonet course at Camp Edwards, Mass. The course was conducted by the 2nd Bn., 385th Regt., Waterbury, Conn. The regiment is a 76th Division (TNG) element.

(Photo by Spec. Deborah J. Walker)

ARMY RESERVE Magazine

Volume XXXVII
Number 2

Contents

"The Secretary of Defense shall require the complete and current dissemination to all Reserves and the Public, of information of interest to the Reserve Components"

Section 2768, Title 10, U.S. Code

Major General Roger W. Sandler
Chief, U.S. Army Reserve

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Desert Storm activities

A collection of informative articles about USAR units and individuals involved in Operation Desert Storm as well as guidance on rights and entitlements for returning "Desert Stormers" and their families.

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Pennsylvanians take desert by storm

As if someone knew something "was up" elements of the 157th Infantry Bde. spent last summer's AT learning how to defeat armor in the desert.

Page 20

Does your family know who to call should you die?

The article outlines the steps to take in the event of a Reservist or retiree death and describes benefits and entitlements available to the survivors.

Page 24

Departments

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About our covers:

FRONT: Lt. Col. Gary Meyer, 352nd Civil Affairs Command, Riverdale, Md. is the man in charge of assessing damage to the Port of Shuwaik, Kuwait's only commercial shipping facility. By the first week in May the cost had already hit $50 million, according to Meyer. *Photo by Spec. Kent Westberg.*
BACK: Capt. Lawrence Knapp, 402nd Civil Affairs Co., Buffalo, N.Y. takes time to enjoy a photo opportunity near the town of Zakho with some of the thousands of Kurds displaced by Saddam Hussein. Obviously, the Kurds thought a Buffalo native would appreciate the Niagara Falls tee-shirt. *Photo by SSgt. Greg Deimel*. We'll have more about both stories in the next issue.

In a 'changing strategic environment'. . .

DoD's reserve chief outlines his downsized vision for RC

Phoenix, Ariz. — Reserve military forces of the future, as with the rest of the armed forces, "Will be smaller in size through the end of this century, but they will continue to be of the highest quality," predicted Assistant Defense Secretary for Reserve Affairs Stephen M. Duncan.

Appearing before more than 1,200 attending the national convention of the nation-wide Reserve Officers' Association, Duncan said that future policy will ensure the "optimal utilization of the active and reserve components. The composition of the Total Force will be derived, however, from the requirements of the new strategy," he noted.

"Some types of reserve forces will be fully retained and even increased, while others will be cut considerably," he said.

"The total number of national guardsmen and Reservists will decline by approximately the same percentage as the active forces, but the reductions will be related to the new strategy and will not be the result of an effort to merely have active and reserve forces 'share the pain' of budget reductions equally," the reserve chief asserted.

"Forces that were maintained on the basis of the previous threat or a short-notice global war will be eliminated or reduced," he explained, suggesting that within five years "Both the active and reserve forces will be smaller, but the percentage of the Total Force that is in the reserve components will be higher than it has been at any time since the Total Force Policy was adopted."

He envisions that reserve forces also will continue to "round out" active divisions in early reinforcement missions and follow-on reinforcing units.

Duncan told the audience that four factors are influencing future decisions on the defense posture.

The first is the dramatic change in the threat with the fading, but not the disappearance, of the conventional threat from the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact nations. Others include the changes in forces needed in the future, the unwillingness of the American public to continue the tempo of defense spending, and the "change in the strategic environment" permitting a restructuring and reducing of forces "with an acceptable level of risk. Fiscal realities, require it."

USAR Civil Affairs Corps

Unique USAR-only branch posts its regimental colors on Ft. Bragg

Washington, D.C. — The Army Reserve's unique Civil Affairs Corps is the latest addition to the U.S. Army Regimental System.

Activated on June 16, 1989 under the approval of the Army Chief of Staff, the U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs Corps now follows the Combat Support/Combat Service Support policy and is incorporated into the Army's Regimental System. The designation as the U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs Corps was predicated upon the fact that the Civil Affairs Branch is a reserve-only branch of the Army.

Troop program unit soldiers assigned to the U.S. Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC) should submit their requests for affiliation on a DA Form 4187, (Request for Personnel Action), to their unit personnel section.

These unit commanders have been delegated approval authority by the USACAPOC.

Members of troop program units assigned to units other than Special Operations should submit their DA Form 4187s through their chain of command to the appropriate Army Reserve Command. Individual Mobilization Augmentees should submit their requests through their IMA proponent agency to the Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis, Mo. Individual Ready Reserve soldiers should route their paperwork directly to their Personnel Management Officer or Personnel Management Non-Commissioned Officer at ARPERCEN.

Soldiers can affiliate with the Civil Affairs Corps based on a previous assignment to a civil affairs unit, or award of the "D" suffix for civil affairs enlisted soldiers, or by completion of the Civil Affairs Officer Advanced Course for officers. Affiliation is governed by AR 600-82, *The U.S. Army Regimental System*.

The corps provides the traditional foundation that gives its members a sense of belonging, a regimental home, and a tie to the history, customs, and traditions of civil affairs.

The Chief of Civil Affairs is Maj. Gen. William R. Berkman, who currently serves on active duty at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as the military executive for the Reserve Forces Policy Board. Maj. Gen. William F. Ward, former Chief, Army Reserve, is the only Distinguished Member of the Regiment. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment is retired Col. Eli E. Nobleman, Counsel Emeritus of the U.S. Senate. Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment is CSM Raymond Lash. The Regimental Home Base is at Ft. Bragg and is commanded by Brig. Gen. David J. Baratto, Commanding General of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

Additional information on affiliation is available by calling Lt. Col. Larry Wayne, at (919) 432- 2415/9002 or DSN 239-2415.

Adjust fire

In the last issue of **ARMY RESERVE Magazine**, we recognized those Army Reservists who had made the supreme sacrifice during **Operation Desert Storm**. Due to confusion over the home of record of one of them, we listed **Spec. James D. Tatum**'s hometown as Athens, Ga. Spec. Tatum's actual hometown is Athens, **Tennessee**.

We sincerely regret the error and apologize for any embarrassment caused by it.

On page 17 of the same issue, we ran a toll-free "800" line which could be used to reach the U.S. Department of Labor for assistance and referral on reemployment rights issues. Due to an error in the original release provided by DOL, the telephone number which appears in the article, *New law strengthens health insurance rights*, is incorrect. The correct phone is 1-800-442-2VET.

The CONSTITUTION of the United States

We the People of the ... do ordain and establish this Constitution for

. . .a fifth and final year in celebration of freedom

by Margaret McBride

Washington, D.C. — December 31, 1991 ends five years of history and civics lessons taught by Chief Justice (Retired) Warren Berger and his *President's Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution*.

Each year of the period 1987-91, focused public attention on different aspects of the 200 year-old United States Constitution.

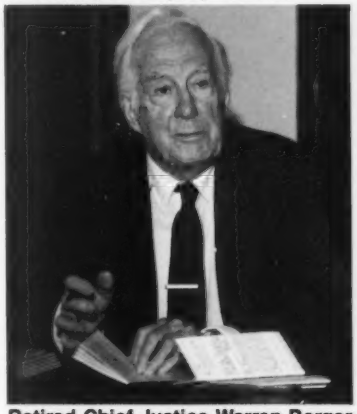
When asked what work of the commission he is most proud of, Berger answered, "Reaching the kids." Most of the commission's $85- million program was directed at children and teachers.

Essay contests and pictorial map contests were two of the most successful methods of teaching students in grades four through nine about the U.S. Constitution.

Secondly, Berger is proud of a pocket-sized version of the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence (6.5- by 3.5-inches) that the commission published and made available to millions of people.

"Even judges use it — it's got an index," the former Chief Justice said.

To obtain a copy, write to **The Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, 808 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006**, or call (202) USA-1787.



Retired Chief Justice Warren Berger signs copies of his "book" during a recent interview. (Photo by SSgt. Phil Prater)

Sandler nominated as new CAR; Baratz will be USARC deputy

Washington, D.C. — As this issue was going to press, President Bush announced that he would nominate Maj. Gen. Roger W. Sandler to be the new Chief, Army Reserve and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Command.

He will replace Maj. Gen.William F. Ward Jr. and will become the acting CAR effective August 1, 1991. He will also become the second commander of the new U.S. Army Reserve Command upon senate confirmation of his nomination. His last duty was as Commanding General, 86th ARCOM, Forest Park, Ill.

In other top-level personnel changes, Maj. Gen. Max Baratz has been named as deputy commanding general for the U.S. Army Reserve Command in Atlanta, Ga. Baratz had been the Assistant Deputy Commanding General (Reserve Affairs-IMA) at U.S. Forces Command at Ft.McPherson, Ga.

Finally, CSM Collin L. Younger has been named as Command Sergeant Major for both OCAR and the USARC, replacing CSM Douglas E.Murray. Younger had been Command Sergeant Major for the 80th Div. (TNG) in Richmond, Va. Murray will become top NCO at ARPERCEN replacing CSM James Black who is returning to the San Francisco area and the IRR.

More information will be available in our next issue.

ARPERCEN sets record straight on '800' line

Use correct phone for card questions

St. Louis, Mo. — IRR and IMA soldiers who received their Commissary Privilege Cards earlier this year also received a cover letter explaining how to use the card and offering a contact telephone number at ARPERCEN should the member wish to pose questions directly to the issuing authority.

According to Maj. Dorothy Clark, Chief of ARPERCEN's Incentives' Administration Center, several thousand of the cover letters mailed had an incorrect contact number because of the relocation of ARPERCEN offices which took place in the midst of the mailout. To correct those relatively few letters, would have meant delaying the entire mailing, according to Clark, so it was decided to get the cards into the hands of the Reservist and follow up to fix the telephone number problem.

The correct toll-free line to the Incentives' Administration Center is (800) 452-0201 or commercial (within Missouri) (314) 538-3740.

Reservists may schedule chapels for weddings

Washington, D.C. — Army Reserve soldiers are entitled to solemnize their marriages in military chapels at no cost.

They can also ask a military chaplain to perform the wedding ceremony. To use a military chapel, normally, reservations must be made at least four weeks in advance.

Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis and regularly scheduled religious programs take priority.

National Defense University creates new college

Washington, D.C. — On March 1, the Information Resources Management College (IRMC) became the fourth college of the National Defense University since NDU was established in 1976.

The Department of Defense Computer Institute (DODCI) was established in 1963, for the purpose of teaching "the fundamentals of digital computer capabilities and limitations to senior military and civilian personnel in the Department of Defense."

Since then, DODCI has more than fulfilled that mandate, providing almost 93,000

see NDU on page 27

New educational requirement for officers is here

Promotion from captain to major is no longer possible without passing through one of two CAS³ options. . . problem solvers wanted

Washington, D.C. — What's an RC-CAS³ (pronounced AR-CEE CAS-CUBED)?

Well, it's really the *Reserve Component-Combined Arms and Services Staff School*. But let's lay some of the ground work first.

As an officer, let's assume you have completed your branch advance course. You've successfully gotten your company command time under your belt. For the next few years, you will be assigned to duties in a variety of staff positions.

Now, the question becomes self-evident. What is a staff officer? How do you become the best staff officer possible? What do you need to do to become educationally qualified to be promoted to the rank of major?

First, a staff officer is a *problem solver*. In many future assignments you will be required to analyze and solve military problems, interact with other staff officers, and coordinate and communicate your actions skillfully both in writing and orally. You must increase your understanding of Army organization, operations, and procedures. As you develop and hone these skills, you will find that many may directly translate to your civilian occupation resulting in an improvement in both areas.

Now for the pitch! How do you get to be the best staff officer? The RC-CAS³ Course will provide you with the tools you need.

The course consists of two phases. First, a 140-hour correspondence phase that will provide background information on nearly every aspect of Army activity. The second phase is attendance at a United States Army Reserve Forces (USARF) School with a lieutenant colonel who will be your instructor, mentor and staff leader. During this phase you will learn and apply the staff officers' skills of problem solving, writing, briefing, time management, conduct of meetings, computer literacy, quantitative analysis and after action reviews.

These staff skills are presented in such a manner that the potential staff officer learns the estimate process (not tactics), uses information (not accumulates it), and employs teamwork, logic and common sense. These same skills can be used in both your civilian and military occupations.

The last question was "What do I need to do to become educationally qualified for promotion to major?"

Beginning October 1, 1993 you will have to be a graduate of the CAS³ course or RC-CAS³ course to be educationally qualified for that promotion. As of March of this year, captains with a date of rank after September 30, 1987 are not allowed to enroll in the Command and General Staff Course (C&GSC) unless they are graduates of one of the CAS³ programs.

To take the CAS³ resident course at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., you must submit a request through the appropriate channels for a quota and necessary TDY or ADT orders. The request will be entered against a very limited number of quotas. For a USAR officer to attend the course at a USARF school, the enrollment form must be submitted through the chain of command to the Personnel Management Officer in the appropriate branch. ARPERCEN will provide the orders and funding for attendance.

Enrollment forms are available in all Army Educational Centers, USARF Schools, or by request from School of Corresponding Studies (SOCS) at Ft. Leavenworth. You must be a branch advanced course graduate to enroll. Once enrolled, you will have 24 months to complete Phase I (the correspondence phase). You will need to pass all 14 subcourses and the four-hour, open book final examination with a grade of not less than 80 on each test.

Once Phase I is complete, you will need to contact your local USARF school and enroll in Phase II.

The second phase consists of participating with eleven other captains in a staff group (class) that will meet on eight weekends and finish with one two-week AT period.

Special APOs set up for Provide Comfort *troops*

Washington, D.C. — Service members deployed to **Operation Provide Comfort** now have their own APO mailing addresses to ensure they get mail in a timely manner.

"We're testing the system to determine the time it takes to move mail from the states and Europe," said Maj. Ronald S. Taylor, postmaster for **Operation Provide Comfort** at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

For mail to Incirlik, Turkey, use APO NY 09396; to Diyarbakir, APO NY 09399; for Silopi, APO NY 09397; Yuksekova, APO NY 09398; for Al Amadiyah, Iraq, APO NY 09394; and for Zahku, Iraq, APO NY 0939S.

Premium also increases

SGLI benefit doubled for soldiers in April

Washington, D.C. — Public Law 102.25 increased the maximum Servicemen's Group Life Insurance coverage from $50,000 to $100,000 effective in April 1991.

The monthly premium of 80 cents per $10,000 of coverage remains the same.

The $50,000 limit had been in place for a number of years according to Christopher Jehn, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management and Personnel. He asserts that even if the amount was correct once, it almost surely is too low now given inflation. His office reported to Congress that $50,000 is far too little when survivors rely on insurance to pay off a mortgage, educate dependent children and, perhaps, even help the surviving spouse to retrain to better support the family.

The insurance costs are less than equivalent private insurance coverage partially because the government does not have to try to make a profit. Tom Tower, an official in DoD's Compensation Policy Office, said military people also are more fit and healthier than the general population, and that translates into lower death rates and lower insurance costs and policy premiums.

Congress had also asked DoD compensation officials to consider whether accidental death and dismemberment insurance for fliers was appropriate.

They concluded it was not. First of all, stated their report, flying is not the only dangerous military occupation. Second, it stated "The primary objective of the insurance program is to ensure survivors have adequate and immediate resources to maintain their standard of living after the death of the wage earner and spouse. A fatality because of an [aviation-related] accident is no more onerous to the survivor than a fatality occurring for some other reason."

Jehn said the proposed changes were not linked to **Operation Desert Storm** and were in the works before the start of **Operation Desert Shield** last August.

The JUMPS-RC pay system will automatically cover soldiers who are eligible for SGLI coverage to the new maximum amount and charge the $8 premium. The maximum coverage will continue unless the soldier loses eligibility under the law, declines coverage, or makes a written election for a lesser amount of coverage in $10,000 increments.

Reservists who desire less than the maximum coverage must complete a new VA Form 29-8280 (Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Election) and DD Form 93 (Record Of Emergency Data).

The April 1991 Leave & Earnings Statement reflected the first $8 premium charge. The effective date of a "Change SGLI" transaction is automatically the first day of the month following receipt at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Indianapolis Center (DFAS-IN).

For additional information on this new SGLI coverage, members may contact Lt. Col. Richard Easterly, DAAR-ZXP-L, DSN 699-2139, or commercial (317) 542-2129.

It's never too early (or late) to think about MOBILIZATION

A self-help quiz to test your readiness to answer the call and protect your family at the same time. Recent history would indicate taking it would a prudent and productive use of time.

Here are five questions pertaining to you and your family's readiness during any potential mobilization or deployment. Check your knowledge by answering true or false.

— If you take time off for reserve training without telling your boss, you lose any reemployment rights.

— "In loco parentis" is a native insect of the Persian Gulf region.

— Debts incurred after mobilization orders are received are not covered by the *Soldiers' and Sailors Civil Relief Act*.

— Up to 80-percent of your military pay can be withheld for child support or alimony payments.

— If you are called to active duty for more than 30 days, you can move your family members at government expense only if authorized by your orders.

Well, the answer to the first question is "True". In accordance with the *Veterans' Reemployment Rights Act*, you must inform your boss when you will be absent from work because of reserve duty.

Your were right if you answered "False" in the second case. "In loco parentis" is a Latin term meaning "in place of parent." You should have someone legally designated to be the guardian of your dependents during your absence. You can do this by having a special power of attorney prepared at a servicing Legal Assistance Office.

It is "True" that protection under the *Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act* begins with the date entering active duty and generally terminates 30-90 days after the date of discharge from active duty. However, the service member must have paid, prior to entry into active duty, a deposit or installment under the contract for any real or personal property.

The answer to the fourth one should have been "False". *The Consumer Credit and Protection Act* allows between 50 and 60 percent of your salary to be withheld for child support or alimony payments. The rate will vary depending on the local laws.

Finally, the answer to the last question is "True". Be sure that any move is ***authorized*** on your orders. If not, you will not be reimbursed by the government for the move.

How well did you do on the quiz? Don't fret if you couldn't answer all of the questions. Many written pamphlets, guides and other assistance are available through your MUSARC Family Support Coordinator.

They will help you and your family answer these questions and many others that you may have pertaining to your benefits and rights during any future mobilization.

Contact your unit commander or your Family Support Coordinator for details on how to obtain this information.

Pick-up team sparkles

Come-as-you-are port unit moves 'em out

Hundreds of vehicles, like this row of HMMWVs were loaded out of east coast and gulf ports by the "Wilmington" TTU.
(Photo by Lt. Col. Dick Devlin)

by 1st Lt. Glenn P. Mirabella

Wilmington, N.C. — In the early days of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, as scenes of the United States' military response played on the TV screens of every American home, some viewers watched with keener interest than others.

Ed Bollman said he had talked about the buildup with his family, and what it would soon mean, ". . . especially when we saw vehicles being loaded aboard aircraft. We talked and I said that's only going to last so long and then, sooner or later, they're going to go to ships.

"And when you go to ships," he concluded, "who does it? The 1176th."

So, SFC Edward A. Bollman, Operations NCO of the 1176th Transportation Terminal Unit, responding to a Department of the Army request for Reservists in critical skill areas to come on active duty, said good-bye to his wife, his children, his eight-year-old grandson and his civilian job to answer the call.

The same scene was played out in many homes as other soldiers from the 1176th TTU out of Baltimore, Md., as well as elements from the 1175th TTU of Pedricktown, N.J., and the. 1189th and 1182nd TTU, both from Charleston, S.C. — more than 50 Reservists in all — arrived for duty at the Port of Wilmington, N.C., on August 14.

According to Lt. Col. John A. Skorupski, Jr., Operations Officer from the 1189th TTU, it isn't surprising there were so many volunteers.

"We trained all our military careers, most of us, to get involved in something like this," he said, adding, "And everybody jumped at the chance to come. They're very glad to be here."

Outbound to Middle East

The mission was to rapidly load thousands of military vehicles and equipment aboard massive cargo ships headed to the Middle East in support of **Operation Desert Shield**. One of the many challenges was to do this with a composite organization made up of elements from four TTUs — and later five (elements of the 1185th TTU from Lancaster, Pa., arrived 11 days later) — brought together almost overnight.

"The challenge that we had," said SFC Lewis Wicks of the 117th TTU, "was to integrate the other four TTUs that were down here and function as one complete team."

"When we got down here, we realized very quickly the shortfall," explained Bollman, "We didn't have all our expertise here so we had to rely on the other TTUs for the areas [we were missing]. And of course, they were in the same boat. So We could have had the 1176 in charge of ADP, and the 1189th in charge of operations, and the 1182nd in charge of vessel operations — and that, in fact, is what we had, that type of situation, . . . it worked out very well' "

In order to succeed in it's mission, the Wilmington TTU (as the composite unit came to be called), under the command of Col. C. Spencer Powell, commander of the 1176th TTU, had to integrate well with active component troops. The 1176th — like the other

TTUs that formed the Wilmington TTU — is a designated reserve component unit of the Military Traffic Management Command. Much of the logistical support the Wilmington TTU required came from MTMC's Military Ocean Terminal, Sunny Point, better known as MOTSU. Located at Southport, N.C., 25 miles to the north, MOTSU is the largest ammunition port in the free world.

The support from MOTSU came in many forms; "In my particular case," said Wicks, "typewriters, copying machines, secure phones, FAX machines — general, everyday items to support our mission." Support came not only from the Army's active component, but from sister services as well.

"Even though this is a civilian port," Bollman said, "We have Navy here, the Coast Guard's here, the Army's here. We're working together."

Joint forces success

The work at Wilmington was a joint effort, with the Coast Guard assisting with port security, and sailors of Military Sealift Command working closely with MTMC personnel. There was even assistance from the Marine Corps in the form of trailers and power generators.

According to Bollman, one of the challenges to the loading operation was dealing with vessels called "lighters", barges that are loaded with a hand full of vehicles, towed out to a ship where the entire barge is then loaded aboard.

"We are a functional TTU," he said, "We are not a Terminal Service Company which deals with loading barges and transporting them and lifting them and so on. We don't do that. We're used to loading RORO vessels (roll on/roll off) or LOLO vessels (lift on/lift off). When we came down here and saw what was going on, what the vessels were we had to load — that was a challenge, believe me, that was a challenge!"

His people had to go back 20 years to get the vessel characteristics on how to load those types of vessels, though he added, "I didn't have a whole lot of problems — I came in [the Army] in 1955. The first time I went through stevedoring, we had those types of things. But there were very few people who had experience loading and unloading those vessels."

Early on in the operation, TTU crews had to tackle the frustrations of "frustrated cargo", that is, cargo that is improperly documented and had to be set aside until their paperwork could be corrected.

"The most significant challenge," said Skorupski, "is walking into an operation in the middle where we find cargo arriving at the port which is not documented properly. That causes us to have to find out what we have, because we have no idea what we have."

Most of the problems lay with missing or improperly affixed computer-generated, laser-scanned labels which are part of the

Continued on next page

Above, Army Reservists from the "Wilmington" TTU and active duty transportation experts worked together to get materiel loaded aboard the *USNS Cape Henry* and on its way to the gulf early last August. Top, an Army Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMMT) from the 24th Infantry Division swings aboard the *USNS Pollux* under the supervision of Army Reservists.

(Photos by J.A. Hendricks)

Terminal unit finds leaving home tough go

continued from previous page

Logistical Application of Automated Marking and Reading Symbology (LOGMARS) system. These labels, with their bar-codes, are placed on all deploying military equipment.

"It's kind of like a grocery check-out counter," explained Skorupski, "where you come to the counter and run your goods over the scanner; it tells you how much it is and what it is, and that's exactly what we have."

While the problem of the labels was quickly corrected, he said that it kept life "interesting" for a while.

Throwing themselves enthusiastically into their jobs, the men and women of the Wilmington TTU maintained high spirits in spite of the long hours and being away from home and loved ones. Part of what made the separation bearable for many was the knowledge that those they left behind were well taken care of, and they understood why the soldier had to leave.

"I prepared my wife for this before I left," said Wicks, who, in his civilian capacity, is the Senior Supervisory Administrative Assistant for the 1176th TTU. He said that because of proper prior planning, both at the unit and on a personal level, he felt confident his family was provided for in any eventuality. However, Wicks admitted that emotionally preparing one's family for the time when one is activated, is difficult.

"I've been connected with the military all my life — my wife, she knows what I'm into, she knows what I'm about, so she accepted what is going on. I can't say that for everybody in the unit, but my wife knows how I stand and what I believe in," he said.

SSgt. William R. Gue, vessel NCO from the 1176th TTU, said that the separation was harder on some than others.

The frenetic tempo of loading ships (above) was monitored carefully by members of the 1176th Transportation Terminal Unit until each sea-lifter was loaded to the gunwales with a maximum of efficiency and minimum of wasted space (below).

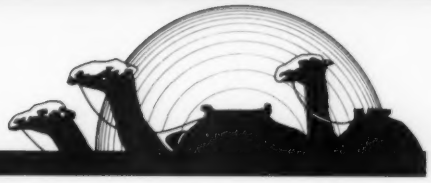
(Photos by J.A. Hendricks)

"You have a lot of [young soldiers] here — most of them have never been away from home this long," Gue said. Still Gue added that being away has been hard on his family. "My daughter is moving up to high school. I went with my son to his orientation and she's mad because I wasn't there for hers. Little things like that — it's big to her."

Later in August, the rest of the 1176th was activated and joined the advance party in Wilmington by the end of the month, boosting manpower for the operation.

Early in September, they headed to Charleston, S.C., to move Desert Shield-bound cargo out of that port. Speaking with soldiers on the eve of that redeployment as they were preparing to turn operations at the Port of Wilmington over to the now complete 1185th TTU, there was a sense of urgency, a need to get the job done, whatever it takes. As Wicks put it, "So we can come back home and tie up some of the knots we left untied."

(At the time he wrote this article, Lt. Mirabella was serving as Assistant Adjutant for the 11th Special Forces Group, Ft. Meade. Md.)



Some no-show IRR soldiers fail second chance; 108 now listed as AWOL

Washington, D.C. — Individual Ready Reservists who didn't show up when called to active duty for **Operation Desert Storm** had a second chance to avoid a desertion charge.

The Army mailed 719 registered letters to IRR soldiers who did not report as ordered during the war. The letter instructed the soldiers to report to Ft. Jackson, S.C., on June 10 for evaluation or be declared absent without leave.

"No punitive actions will be taken, however, against those who did report in June," said Lt. Col. Hank Hanrahan of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel's Mobilization Directorate. "But we do have to keep the faith to those IRR soldiers who reported during the first call to mobilize, placing themselves in harm's way," Hanrahan insisted.

"It's a moral responsibility to determine whether there are soldiers out there who should be dropped from the rolls."

Hanrahan said that IRR soldiers who received the letter and still did not report on June 10 would be considered absent without leave.

At press time, ARPERCEN officials indicate that 104 IRR members had reported to Ft. Jackson as ordered. Another 405 were "otherwise accounted for" while just 108 failed to report.

Those 108 soldiers were dropped from the Army rolls and reported as deserters to the National Deserter Information Point at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind. A total of 102 additional IRR members remain unaccounted for and ARPERCEN cannot currently document that they ever received orders.

Commissioned officer? Serve in Desert Storm?

The IRS could surprise you

by SFC Linda Lee

Washington, D.C. — The federal tax break officers received while serving in the **Operation Desert Storm** combat area may cause problems if steps to avoid them aren't taken now, defense finance officials warn.

An executive order signed earlier this year produced a tax exemption for all pay received after Jan. 16 by enlisted personnel and warrant officers serving in the combat zone and for the first $500 a month for officers in the same circumstances.

But the order also stopped all federal withholding for these people.

Consequently, some officers may find themselves "under-withheld" by the end of the tax year.

Enlisted personnel and warrant officers in the combat zone should be OK because all their military compensation earned there is non-taxable, said Navy Commander Patrick Kusiak, director of DoD's Armed Forces Tax Council.

Desert Storm participants will receive information about taxable earnings and federal withholding, said officials. In addition, leave and earnings statements indicate earnings and withholding to date they note. Finance and accounting officials said individuals can estimate the withholding level needed to cover the year-end tax bill by using standard IRS formulas.

To avoid under-withholding, Kusiak recommended that officers who served in the combat zone heck their pay and tax information and correct problems as soon as possible. Taxpayer options are explained in instructions recently sent to the field. Suggestions include depositing the estimated shortage into an interest-bearing savings account until tax filing time or increasing withholding for the rest of the year by filing a revised Form W-4 with the appropriate service finance center.

Kusiak said individuals who owe additional taxes because of under-withholding caused by Desert Storm have to pay the taxes, but will not owe penalties or interest on them.

For further information, contact your local finance office or request a copy of IRS Publication 945, *Tax Information for Those Affected by Operation Desert Storm*, by calling toll-free at (800) 829-1040.

Army outlines special rules for wear of desert BDUs

Washington, D.C. — Returning Army Reservists are reminded that they may **not** wear the desert version of the Battle Dress Uniform at their own discretion, according to Army officials here.

In recent guidelines published by Headquarters, Department of Army, wearing the desert BDU at public functions, other than homecoming parades and other activities directly related to the celebration of the return of soldiers from Southwest Asia, is **not** authorized without an exception from a unit's higher headquarters.

In an effort to ensure uniformity throughout the Army, soldiers appearing before the public at community relations events should wear the Army Class A or B uniform.

These events may include, but are not limited to, sporting events, speaking engagements, individual recognition ceremonies and other similar activities.

Any returning Desert Storm Reservists would be well advised to contact his or her command's public affairs officer for current and pertinent public affairs guidance before accepting personal public appearances during which the soldier represents the U.S. Army.

Their style would even play in Peoria

Early-deploying transporters take desert in stride

by Capt. Debbie Haston-Hilger

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia — The first thing to hit you is the blistering heat. Temperatures soar to 100 degrees in just a few hours.

There is some solace in the shade; it even seems to be 10 degrees cooler there and a slight breeze blows if you stand in just the right spot.

Then there's the sand . . . it's everywhere and sticks to everything. It's not like the sand normally found in the United States. It's very soft and fine and feels like baby powder. Then there are the flies. They are small and constantly buzz around your face and hands becoming a nuisance. Although there are probably only a few hundred of them, it feels like there are a thousand.

Welcome to the "sand box". Welcome to the desert of Saudi Arabia.

Not all bad

But, not all is bad in the desert. Morale is good and the Arabs are friendly. So friendly in fact that they offered to share a meal with SSgt. Ronald Piper, 724th Transportation Company, Peoria, Ill.

The 724th is a medium truck petroleum company which hauled fuel throughout Saudi Arabia from its initial location in Saudi's eastern province. Later it moved north.

"It was very nice of them to offer me their food. I didn't expect anything like that."

"It's something like tacos. It has a little sugar package that goes with the flour tortillas. It tasted very similar to our tacos. It was very good . . . along with a very sweet tea; it's hot, too."

In turn, Piper offered the Saudis some of his Meals- Ready-to-Eat. They must have had them before. .. they politely refused.

Great American tradition

While Piper was sharing his meal, other 724th soldiers shared an old American tradition with some other Arabs — football.

Several 724th soldiers showed them how to play touch football in the sand. The game even included some of the unit's female members. It didn't seem to bother the Saudis at all, according to Spec. Kathy Dossett.

"At first I didn't think they'd play because we were playing. But they just jumped right in there," Dossett said. "It didn't seem to bother them that we were female. It was fun . . . they were having fun too." she said.

"The people don't act anything like they said they would. They just walked right up to us and started talking. They were very friendly, even to the females," she continued.

Once the soldiers arrived at their base camp they unpacked their belongings and set up to get some long-awaited sleep. The plane

Listening to "tunes", letter writing and sleeping were three favorite pastimes for deploying troops. Immediately below, Spec. Virginia Domaine sleeps on her bags after the 28-hour trip. Bottom, PFC Chris Quinones takes care of the other two on his cot.

(Photos by Capt. Debbie Haston-Hilger)

ride had taken 24 hours, including 12 hours of layovers. With the time changes involved, the troops were coming up on 48 hours with little or no sleep.

It was a time to acclimate to the weather and change in time and to clean up.

Several soldiers took showers, shaved, brushed their teeth and washed their clothes by hand. The camp lacked the luxuries of home but the soldiers adapted well.

Showers were wooden stalls with water canisters on top. They were filled daily with water, but because of the number of people in camp the water was used up quickly; you had to be quick to get a shower. The water felt good because the sun would warm the water to a nice luke-warm temperature.

Latrines were wooden boxes with real toilet seats attached but without the luxury of the flush. They were emptied daily too.

Laundry facilities took several days to get up and running, so the soldiers washed uniforms and other clothes by hand in big plastic tubs.

Shaving and brushing teeth were also done in custom-built wooden sinks with removable tin bowls. A "water buffalo" was handy to replace water when needed.

"It's probably better than what we'll have when we move to our other location " said PFC Rich Freeman. "I don't like it, but I'll live with it. "

Fast learners

Although the living conditions were not the best, the truckers adapted and very quickly, according to SSgt. Tim Hostetter.

"It's funny — we've adjusted well. Especially to the heat," said Hostetter.

"Everyone is getting along well, playing football and other games. Several of us put our mosquito nets together across our cots and made a little condo," he said.

"In conditions like these we know that we can't change things, so we just do what we can to adjust," affirmed Hostetter.

"It makes things go easier."

(Capt. Haston-Hilger is the Public Affairs Officer for the 425th Transportation Brigade, the parent unit of the 724th, headquartered at Ft. Sheridan, Ill.)

Above, a look at the tent city at Camp Jack, known to many troops as "New Jack City". Below left, 724th soldiers play a game of football with Saudi bus drivers to help break the tension and, below, Sgt. Ronald Piper stands beside — what else — a "camel crossing" sign. Why not, we have "deer crossing" signs here, don't we.

(Photos by Capt. Debbie Haston-Hilger)

Federal agents are tuned in

Desert Storm *contraband is risky business*

Washington, D.C. — A Tennessee man was seriously injured by the recent accidental discharge of a hand grenade his brother brought back from the Persian Gulf as a war souvenir.

Because of incidents like these, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is issuing a reminder to **Operation Desert Storm** veterans that they cannot import firearms or explosives.

"We are concerned about the impact of public safety," said BATF director Stephen E. Higgins.

"Sometimes weapons can end up in the wrong hands and it can prove deadly. Often, after time, they move to the Black Market," he warned.

The Department of Defense has jurisdiction over was souvenirs and trophies and *Desert Shield General Order Number 1* effectively prohibits all firearm and bayonet imports from the Persian Gulf.

According to Higgins, the BATF distinguishes between violation of the law with criminal intent or impact and instances of simple bad judgement.

However, Army officials note that soldiers caught smuggling firearms can be prosecuted under Article 103, "Captured or Abandoned Property", of the *Uniform Code of Military Justice.*

"If a soldier declares the contraband on a customs form, officials will confiscate it and the matter will probably end there," according to Lt. Col. Joseph Allred, an Army spokesman.

"If a soldier is caught smuggling, though, his commander has the authority to take appropriate action in pursuit of the policy," he concluded.

Higgins said the BATF frequently takes voluntary abandonments and that interested service personnel should call their local BATF office about turning in the contraband.

Shift back to JUMPS-RC for pay is well-underway

by Lt. Col. Richard Easterly

Indianapolis, Ind. — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Indianapolis Center, formerly known as the U.S. Army Finance & Accounting Center, has implemented new procedures which will reconstitute the reserve pay for Troop Program Unit soldiers returning from **Operation Desert Shield/Storm** duty.

Significantly, DFAS-IN has retained all TPU soldiers ordered to Desert Shield/Storm on the Joint Uniform Military Pay System — Reserve Components in a non-pay status. Upon release from active duty, DFAS will submit a unit transaction to JUMPS-RC to create blanket training pay category changes for all assigned soldiers.

Following the completion of this transfer from the JUMPS Active Component pay system to the JUMPS-RC system, units and servicing USAR pay input stations may input Inactive Duty Training (drill) transactions for processing and payment.

Additionally, DFAS has completed pay system changes that allow some pay data to pass from the active duty pay system to the reserve pay system as a result of transition processing at the demobilization stations.

This transfer capability will significantly reduce the amount of work required of units to update the JUMPS-RC Master Pay File.

Here are three examples of the type of changes that will automatically transfer from JUMPS-AC TO JUMPS-RC.

First, DFAS will generate promotion transactions for all soldiers. If no grade change occurred or the soldier was reduced while on active duty, JUMPS-RC will reject the transaction. Otherwise, the new grade will post to the RC pay file.

Secondly, aviators will have their Officer's Aviation Service (ASED) or Total Federal Officer Service Date (TFOS) updated.

Finally, DFAS will transfer all SURE PAY (direct deposit/electronic funds transfer) from the active to the reserve pay system. Returning soldiers must remain on SURE-PAY. Any subsequent change of financial institution must be input through the unit and servicing USAR pay input station.

You should know

Reservists do not build up civilian leave while on active duty

Washington, D.C. — A common misunderstanding among Army Reservists being released from active duty for **Operation Desert Storm** seems to be that they think they have accrued civilian vacation time from their employers during their military absence.

An ombudsman for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve here advises that the majority of Reservists is not entitled to vacation accrual while absent on military duty. They are entitled to vacation earned and not used prior to call-up.

NCESGR recommends that returning Reservists **not** alienate their their employers by demanding vacation, which would otherwise have accrued during their absence, upon return to their civilian jobs.

Call NCESGR at (800) 336-4590 for further clarification on the vacation issue or other job/reserve-related questions.

Provide Comfort Reservists to get benefits package

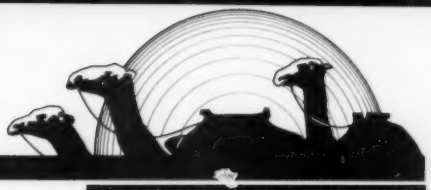
Washington, D.C. — Army Reservists providing relief to Kurdish refugees will receive the some of the same benefits as troops who served during **Operation Desert Storm**, including imminent danger pay and free mail service.

Each service member participating in the relief effort will receive $150 a month in imminent danger pay beginning on the sixth day after their arrival in Southwest Asia. No ending date for the pay has yet been established by the Department of Defense.

Besides the danger pay, Reservists assisting in **Operation Provide Comfort** will receive family separation pay (married members only) of $75 a month retroactive to January 15, 1991. They may also participate in a special savings deposit program (up to $10,000 may accrue) as well as a death gratuity of $3,000 to $6,000. Ending dates for these programs will be announced later.

Those serving in Provide Comfort will also be entitled a combat zone tax exclusion, thought it applies only to those serving in Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The break exempts enlisted soldiers and warrant officers from all federal taxes on their military pay and would allow officers to exclude $500 monthly from their gross income. A similar break for soldiers serving in Turkey is being considered by DoD.



USAR hospital helps DEPMEDS gear reach Saudi for water need

Ft. Belvoir, Va. — Members of the Army Reserve's 56th Field Hospital, headquartered in Richmond, Va., and the 610th Ordnance Battalion, an active Army unit here, teamed up with personnel from Belvoir's Research, Development and Engineering Center, to help our soldiers in Saudi Arabia.

The program manager for Deployable Medical Systems, or DEPMEDS, urgently needed 20 hospital water distribution systems for our forces in the Middle East. He contacted the Center, which called in the Reservists because the short deadline didn't allow time to contract the work to private industry.

The Reservists promptly volunteered their weekends and began assembling and packaging components of the systems for shipment overseas.

Getting the units ready required time and hard work since each system has 225 pieces of hose and 170 fittings. Each fitting required the assembly of about seven parts. In all, the 20 systems contained some 23,000 pieces for the fittings and 4,500 sections of hose which would stretch for almost 13 miles.

According to some of the Reservists, they found the work a rewarding experience.

"A medical unit like ours doesn't really 'train.' In medicine, we are used to taking charge and we get to see the immediate results of what we do," said Col. Samuel B. Hunter, commander of the 56th Field Hospital.

"It was the same way here. We were making a direct contribution to the health and well-being of our soldiers. Everyone was glad to be a part of it. The experience was very valuable. It was in line with what we, as medical people, think about doing. Our accomplishments were directed toward patient care."

The members of the 610th felt the same way.

"It's great for our soldiers, particularly from the student standpoint, to play a vital role in helping our soldiers over in Saudi Arabia," according to Lt. Col. Stephen P. Riley, the unit's commander.

"Anything we can do to help them is well worth the time and effort involved," SSgt. Clyde E. Johnson, Jr., the operations sergeant commented.

"The soldiers were glad to help."

'Big Ten' savings plan ends for troops

Indianapolis, Ind. — The redeployment of military personnel from **Operation Desert Storm** has ended the Soldiers' Savings Deposit Program.

According to finance officials, soldiers who elected to make deposits through the allotment program should quickly terminate those allotments. Deposits made after soldiers return from Southwest Asia do not earn interest.

Deposits made while soldiers were deployed will earn interest for up to two months after the month their imminent danger pay stops.

For example, a soldier who redeployed in May receives imminent danger pay for the entire month of May. Therefore, deposits into the savings program earn interest through the end of July.

Norwich grants 'desert scholarships'

Northfield, Vt. — Norwich University has announced it will award $1,000 annual scholarships to its students who left the university for active duty with reserve units during the Persian Gulf crisis.

Norwich is the nation's oldest, and only, private military college. Founded in 1819, Norwich was the first to offer Reserve Officer Training Corps, and today its corps of cadets numbers approximately 1,200. The announcement was made by Maj. Gen. (Ret.) W. Russell Todd, president of the university.

"We are very proud that our students were called to serve their country during the Persian Gulf crisis, and we want to reward their service," Todd said. "They upheld a grand tradition at Norwich, serving as 'citizen soldiers' for their country."

Twenty-four Norwich cadets were called to active duty by reserve units during their fall semester.

The cadets can apply the $1,000 scholarships towards either room and board or tuition every year until they graduate.

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The U.S. Army Reserve thanks American employers, big and small, for their support of Army Reservists during Operation Desert Storm.

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U.S. ARMY RESERVE

IRR soldiers respond to largest reserve call-up in 30 years

by SSgt. Terry Snead

Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. — It's 6:30 a.m.

Inside the 43rd Adjutant General Reception Center at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo, a group of men stand in line waiting to begin in-processing.

Less than ten days ago, these men were leading normal civilian lives. Many of them were college students, others were settling into new jobs.

Unlike the basic trainees they now shared the reception center lines with, these men know what to expect next. Despite their civilian clothes and long-ish hair, all of them are already trained soldiers. They are members of the Individual Ready Reserve.

Pre-trained pool

IRR soldiers represent the Army's largest pretrained pool of Reserve soldiers. Administered by the Army Reserve Personnel Center

A former member of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), now an IRR member of the Army Reserve, instructs other IRR soldiers on the fine points of the LAW anti-tank weapon. At left, IRR soldiers make final adjustments on their AT-4 anti-tank weapons before firing their sub-calibre rounds on a range at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. (Photos by SSgt. Terry Snead)

in St. Louis, 21,000 IRR soldiers were recalled to active duty in January by President Bush.

Many of the IRR soldiers sent to Ft. Leonard Wood had trained here before, either at the Combat Engineer School or at the basic training center. For them it was a sort of homecoming. But, it was a return visit most of the soldiers hadn't expected.

Spec. David M. Ostlund of Dallas was in college studying computer science when the fighting in the gulf started. He said he knew he was in the IRR.

"I'd been expecting a letter. Everyday it was like playing Russian roulette with the mail box," he said.

Alert via Mailgram

What Ostlund received wasn't a letter, it was a Western Union Mailgram that showed a reporting date and provided for commercial travel. The mailgram was part of an elaborate system operated by ARPERCEN to recall selected members from the 290,000-strong rolls of the IRR.

Small elements of the IRR have been called to duty in the past. The last large scale callup was during the Berlin Crisis of 1961: when the wall went up.

Not all of the IRR soldiers here were excited about the uniqueness of being the first group to have been activated in 30 years. For many of them, the activation created major personal problems, but they were committed to answering the call.

Unwanted surprise

Cpl. James D. Jackson was making $14 per hour in a plastics factory in Nashville when he got his mailgram. He said he took his household and personal things to his parents home and tried to explain why he had to go back into the service.

"My family didn't understand. They were upset, broken-hearted," Jackson said. At first, he said, he even considered not answering the report order.

"I thought 'no way,' but it is my duty and my country needs me. No sense crying about it," he said.

After their initial inprocessing, the IRR soldiers were transferred to barracks at the Libby NCO Academy for seven days of compressed refresher training.

IRRs training IRRs

Maj. James W. Rafferty is the executive officer for the 1st Battalion, 392nd Regiment, 98th Division (TNG) of Seneca, N.Y. His reserve drill sergeants were responsible for training the incoming IRR soldiers. Rafferty's unit was activated and arrived at the post only days before the IRR soldiers began to report.

He was concerned about having enough time to get the IRR soldiers ready to serve either as unit replacements for Desert Storm deployed soldiers or in the Kuwaiti Theater of Operations.

"We've got to get 210 IRR's ready . . . we've seven days to turn them out," he said.

Getting bodies in shape and minds tuned to a military frequency isn't easy even after just a few months as a civilian.

"I'd been expecting a letter. Everyday it was like playing Russian roulette with the mailbox."

Spec. David Ostlund
Alerted IRR member

During Common Tasks Training and physical fitness diagnostic tests the soldiers were unhappy with what they considered less than perfect scores. Run times took longer. There were "No Go's" mixed in with the "Go's".

For many of the soldiers, especially ones who had been in combat in Panama, the transition was difficult. Some of the IRR soldiers training at the Missouri post expressed their concern about being able to get up to speed in time for their next move.

It was that next move that concerned them the most.

For the time, they seemed to understand they must work hard. Later, they would have time to worry about the loved ones left behind, about the bills and unfinished lives. Until then the soldiers continued training.

Spec. Donald W. Vadasy, an IRR soldier from Cheboygan, Mich., summed up what many of the recalled soldiers had privately expressed. He said he would rather be with his family, but he knows "the Army put me where I'm needed most."

(SSgt. Snead is a journalist assigned to ARPERCEN's Public Affairs Office in St. Louis, Mo.)

Students say it's worth the effort

Becoming a practical nurse in the USAR is real challenge...

by SFC Edmund M. Bender

Annville, Pa. — The Hilltop Club at Ft. Indiantown Gap was a scene of intense preparation. Soldiers, dressed in formal military attire, filed in — some in Class A's, some in dress blues.

They checked themselves nervously in a mirror, and adjusted each others bowties and decorations. Clearly, they were about to participate in something of real significance.

The formal event for which everyone was preparing that afternoon was the commencement exercise for the first class of 91C licensed practical nurses to graduate from a unique educational program created to fill an intense need in the 79th ARCOM's 338th Medical Group.

Evolutionary process

Early in 1988, Maj. Kathleen Toms, of the 338th, approached nursing administrators of the Northampton County Area Community College in Bethlehem, Pa., to seek help with the problem. What emerged from those initial contacts was an idea which was to evolve into a highly successful joint venture between the Army Reserve and the college.

NCACC was selected for this role because of its proximity to the Philadelphia area, its approval by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, and its accreditation by the National League for Nursing.

Twenty-five enlisted soldiers and five volunteer Army Nurse Corps officers from the 338th Medical Group formed the first faculty and student body for the program. Under the agreement, the Army instructors held adjunct faculty status with the college. Many of the students already worked in some capacity in the medical field in civilian life. Most were motivated by a desire to expand their knowledge or enhance their military and civilian careers.

Motivation for change

Sgt. Jan C. Early, a psychiatric specialist with the 316th Station Hospital in Harrisburg, explained that she volunteered for the program because the slot would soon no longer be available to her. Qualification as an LPN would enable her to remain in the 316th. In addition, she had her eye on a civilian career move to coordinator of a children's medication clinic — a move which would depend upon Early's becoming a licensed practical nurse.

SSgt. Jean Isaac, above, checks Donald Fessler's blood pressure while Spec. Kelly Slaughter, above right, checks Herb Crampton's respiration. Both soldiers are students in the Licensed Practical Nurse Program being carried out at the VA Medical Center in Lebanon. Pa. where Fessler and Crampton are patients.

(Photos by SFC Edmund Bender)

Early, a 34-year-old single parent of a teenage son, is a quiet, reflective person. "I didn't know what to expect," she says of the course, "But I figured I couldn't lose. The Army Reserve paid for our books and our tuition, and paid us to go to school."

The year-long program required each student to attend two three-week long training periods in addition to 12 Friday night-Saturday-Sunday training assemblies (MUTA-5's) and college level study on courses at home.

The 43 credit-hours of course work consisted of both clinical nursing instruction and classroom lectures. Non-nursing courses such as general biology, psychology, English, sociology and anthropology were taken through the NCACC's "College-at-Home" program.

Very intense experience

Early smiles when recalling her experiences during that school year. "It was very

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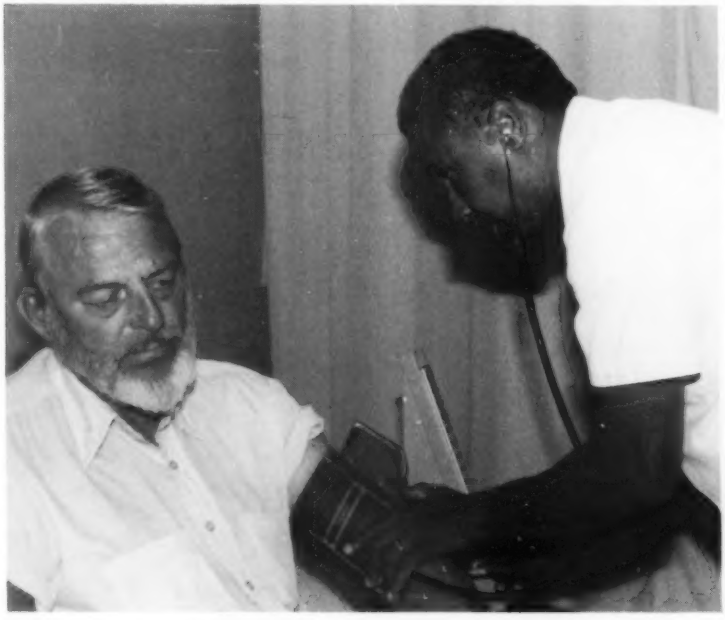
...but these students seem up to it

intense," she says. "The biggest sacrifice was sleep. I was up many nights, 'til three in the morning, doing homework."

Early said she hoped that her taking the course had a positive influence on her son. "I guess he's proud of me. I'm hoping that he'll learn by example, and try to go out and do better for himself. I'm trying to teach him that you can't just sit around and wait for someone to give something to you. You've got to go out and just get it for yourself."

SFC Rudi Bethmann, a student in the second class enrolled in the nursing program, is a biomedical engineer in civilian life. He says he volunteered for the program, "to learn more about the nursing process, and to enhance my knowledge of the human body." Bethmann, previously a Special Forces medic in the active Army, describes the nursing program as "an intense, demanding curriculum."

Capt. Judith R. Errickson, the nursing education and staff development officer at the 338th Medical Group, has nothing but praise for the students who take on the challenge.



Dual commitments

"Any student who chooses this program must be committed not only to the reserve, but to nursing as well," she insists.

When asked whether she feels a sense of pride in her accomplishments, Sgt. Early answers in the affirmative. "It hit me this morning for the first time," she says.

"Someone I had just met asked me what I do for a living. I told him 'I'm a nurse'. That's the first time I ever answered that question that way, and it felt good!"

(SFC Bender is a members of the USAR's 326th PAD, headquartered in Reading, Pa.)

Reservists provide medical assist in Bolivian mountains

Achacachi, Bolivia — In the altiplano (high plains) regions of the Andes mountains, 40 U.S. Army Reservists recently challenged the 18,000-foot altitude to provide much needed medical care to the native Indians of Bolivia.

The cadre of USAR physicians, dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists and medical specialists, drawn from units of the 807th Medical Brigade of Seagoville, Texas, were in the South American country for annual training.

During the training exercise, the health care professionals worked with Bolivian military and civilian personnel to provide medical care and to help educate the Indians on proper nutrition and hygiene.

"Because medical care is so advanced in the United States, we often take for granted that the same conditions exist elsewhere," noted Maj. Bogdan Chumak of Hewitt, Texas. "Bolivia has been a real eye-opening experience. We've seen the strong effect the harsh environment and poverty has had on these people."

The Reservists stayed at a Bolivian Army barracks and travelled to remote villages where they provided medical treatment to over 300 people daily. During their stay, they treated diseases they might never encounter at home — skin, eye and dental ailments as well as diseases resulting from malnutrition. To combat the illnesses, Reservists provided de-worming medication, instruction in pre- and post-natal care and dental exams. They also vaccinated 5,000 head of livestock, including llamas and burros.

"Having been a part of helping these people has probably been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," remarked Spec. Rodrigo Moreno, a San Antonio resident."It's not every day you get a chance to make a real difference. I got that chance for two weeks."

USAR unit is only Army winner in DoD maintenance competition

Washington, D.C. — Congratulations go to Company B, 841st Engineer Battalion, 81st ARCOM, for its superior achievement in unit maintenance.

Company B was the only Army winner (Small Unit Category), of the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award for 1991.

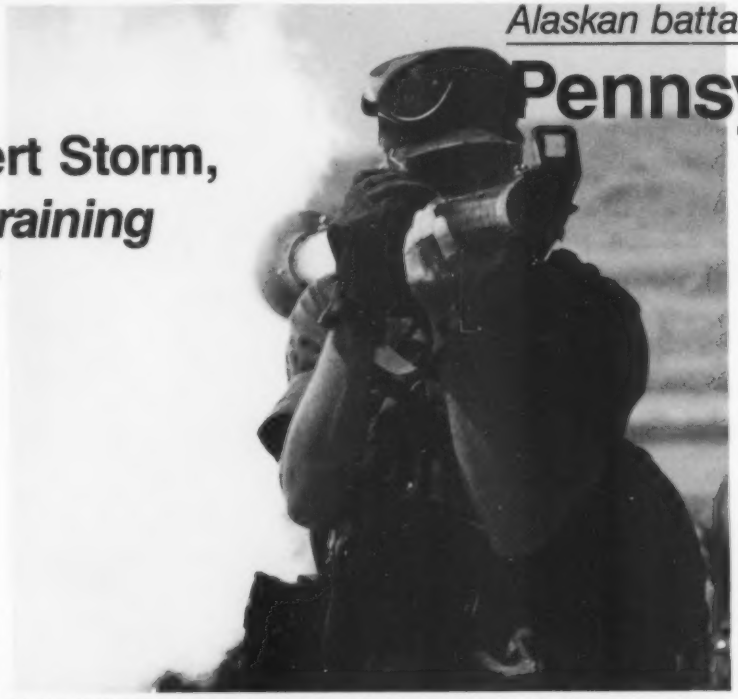
The award annually recognizes the best maintenance units in the services.

The unit's commander, Capt. Charles E. Grief and SFC Donald P. Davis, maintenance NCO, accepted the award at a ceremony at the Pentagon late in May.

As if someone had a vision of Operation Desert Storm, *the 157th was training to defeat armor in the desert last summer*

Alaskan battalio

Pennsy



Sgt. John Lupey of E Co., 314th Infantry, fires a Viper anti-tank missile at "enemy" armor at the NTC. Below right, the bright sun and stark landscape of the NTC create a harsh picture as the Pennsylvanians close with the enemy.

(Photos by Capt. Greg Yesko)

by Capt. Greg Yesko and SSgt. Dennis McMahon

Ft. Irwin, Calif. — Sweat drips down the face of a machine gunner as he waits for the enemy.

The glaring sun and intense desert heat make him forget that he was shivering from the cold wind just the night before. A cloud of dust and sand suddenly gives away the location of the advancing enemy column.

The anti-tank gunners are ready. The ambush was well-planned and rehearsed. Within minutes the sounds of battle fill the desert air.

In what was initially to have been a delaying action, an enemy battalion was rendered combat ineffective. The two-hour battle left 288 confirmed enemy casualties and severe battle damage to enemy vehicles.

The "enemy" in this case was an element of the 6th Infantry Division, headquartered at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska.

Monday morning quarter-backing

After the dust had settled, friend and foe met for the after-action review. The defeated commander wanted to know what crack battalion he had faced at the pass, but couldn't believe that his Opposing Force, or OPFOR, had a group of 48 Army Reservists from the 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) collected from all around southeastern Pennsylvania.

The Reservists were at the National Training Center near Barstow, Calif. to participate in the world-class desert training offered there and marked the first time that a Combat Reserve unit has had the opportunity to play a role in at the highly respected training center, which is virtually an "active Army only" site.

In all, 125 brigade soldiers trained in desert warfare using Multiple Integrated Laser Equipment. MILES equipment is a realistic training tool which allows both soldiers and vehicles to know if they've been "hit" or destroyed by opposing fire. The troops from the 157th assisted in providing the OPFOR for several active component units training at the NTC at the same time.

The soldiers, who came from various companies within the 314th Infantry Battalion headquartered in Lockhaven, along with attachments from the 315th Infantry Battalion from Philadelphia, Pa., formed a composite company to support training activities at the center.

The company's time in California was spent as an attachment to the permanent party at Ft. Irwin, which regularly plays the role of the Opposing Force for visiting active Army units. In this case their active opposition were from the 4th Infantry Division, Ft. Carson, Colo., and the 6th Infantry division.

The composite company, commanded by Capt. William M. Robbins, Company A, 314th performed its mission as an opposing force using Soviet weapons and tactics to give the U.S. battalions the most realistic training experience possible.

According to Robbins, the Reservists first went through their own Soviet tactical training before turning their newly-learned skills against the active Army soldiers.

Completely different terrain

In addition to the opportunity to train up on Soviet military skills, Robbins indicated that this assignment offered the unique chance to train in a completely different climate and terrain.

"The arid, sandy desert around Ft. Irwin offered an interesting change from the familiar scenes at Forts Pickett, Dix and Indiantown Gap," Robbins noted, referring to the nearby posts where his soldiers usually train.

"Attending the NTC is the best training opportunity I have seen since I've been in the Army Reserve," he insisted.

meets its match

vanians take desert by storm

While the appearance of the landscape may be desolate and aesthetically unappealing, the NTC has proven to be a tremendously popular training ground for large-scale desert exercises, restricting participation in the training to active Army units with higher readiness priorities than most reserve units. But the impression made by the 157th soldiers may open the door to other Reservists in combat units.

"I think the people at Ft. Irwin were expecting a bunch of rag-tag "weekend warriors" with no idea of what to do. But they found out differently when we got there," said SSgt. David K. Brecht, of Company D, 315th Infantry. In one operation, the composite company annihilated a battalion from the 6th Division. The operation, coined the Battle of Beacon Pass, was recognized as a textbook-style defensive operation that resulted in 288 casualties from that battalion.

In addition to the simulated casualties, another positive result was the increased respect that the reserve soldiers earned.

"I think they realize that it isn't because they are bad soldiers that they lost the battle, but rather that Reservists can be very good soldiers . . . and most of us are," Brecht added.

While the Pennsylvania Reservists probably taught some lessons about the capabilities of Reservists, the most significant aspect of their assignment may have been what they learned for themselves. Operating in the open desert with no trees for cover, and using Soviet weapons and tactics all helped to create a unique training experience.

"I learned a lot about how the Russians move and hide. I think the anti-tank gunners got the best training, because we had to engage tanks all the time out there," said PFC Daniel McDonald, an anti-tank gunner with Company E, of the 315th. "It feels great to go after tanks. You are just high on adrenalin and you go out and get 'em."

see NTC on page 27

Minnesota health professionals

by Lt.Col. Jim Nielsen

Male, Rep. of the Maldives — For two days young Ali lay unconscious.

He had been playing with a friend in front of his home on the tiny coral atoll when he felt the sharp pain inside his head. He screamed, dropped the ball and sat down on the sand. His head wobbled. He saw his father run to him.

It was the last thing he remembered.

With their Indian Ocean island in the Republic of the Maldives isolated from medical help, Ali's only hope was to be brought by sea to a small twelve-bed clinic on distant Meemu Island. From there, a rough nine-hour sail aboard a small, diesel-powered boat called a *dhoni*, would bring him to the Central Hospital on Male. The father carried his son to the boat. The next evening, in the dimly lit and crowded hospital ward, the boy's eyes flickered open as his older brother touched his arm.

"God's will," Ali's brother said tearfully, looking up at the U.S. Army Reserve physician. "God's will," the doctor replied.

The physician, Capt. Clyde Markon from Superior, Wis., was part of a team of US Army reserve doctors, nurses and biomedical equipment reparimen sent from the 550lst Army Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota to the Republic of the Maldives, a beautiful necklace of tiny islands in the Indian Ocean southwest of India. "We don't know what's wrong with this child," said Capt. Debra Thilgen, a registered nurse from Forest Lake, Minn., "and we may never find out."

Lack of diagnostic gear

She filled a syringe with medication, helped the boy sit up and squirted the yellow liquid in his mouth. "That's an unacceptable standard of practice in the United States, but not here. In the United States Ali, right now, would be hooked up to every imaginable piece of diagnostic equipment."

"Look at me, Ali. Good. Swallow, Ali," she said smiling. "We'd have C-T scanners and sophisticated laboratory equipment, with lab results and a battery of numbers to look at. In the Maldives, it's just not available."

Ali refused to swallow, holding the medicine in his mouth while she spoke. His eyes showed limited awareness, and his disordered movements showed incomplete recovery. "Here we must get out of that number mode and really look at the patients," she added. "Our assessm t skills have to be very good."

Capt. (Dr.) Gregg Lehman, an Army Reserve dentist, examines the teeth of Maldivian school children who lined up for the service which is so rare in the Maldives.
(88th ARCOM photo)

It was just such medical experience that brought the Army Reservists to this distant island republic for their two-week annual training. They came as part of U.S. Army Pacific Command's Expanded Relations Program, a nation-building program of military assistance that combines good will with good training.

"If we're mobilized for overseas deployment, we'll face these same diagnostic situations," said Lt.Col. Dean Collins, team chief and medical service officer with the 550lst. "Sophisticated equipment and complete diagnostic tests are just not available."

The team members spoke of facing similar situations in previous Central American deployments, but the Maldivian exercise added startling new situations and tropical diseases to their medical experience.

"I never thought I'd ever see a patient with leprosy," said Dr. Markon. He gently pulled back a sheet and exposed the man's leg, calf and thigh swollen with cauliflower-shaped lesions. "This man suffered for years before coming to the hospital. Leprosy is not common but is easily treatable," said Markon. "It's a matter of seeking treatment with the proper drugs."

Seeking treatment is not always easy in a nation where virtually all transport is by slow-moving *dhonis*. Many islanders must travel days over rough seas to visit the capital island of Male, if weather permits. It's expensive, and sometimes dangerous. Alternative air ambulance service, although available, is economically far out of reach of most of the nation's people.

Complex system

"The government helps," said Maj. Barbara Mendrey, a family practitioner from Fort Collins, Colo. "and many of the more serious patients are flown to hospitals in Sri Lanka. But the patient or his family must write a letter to the government stating the medical problem, and a medical board reviews the request."

This takes time, assumes the patient can write, and can be intimidating. "If I can get nervous writing a letter to some government official," said Dr. Mendrey, "think how tough it could be for an islander, when the outcome is so important to . . . life."

The Army Reserve team was not always successful in saving lives. Maj. Anne Warwick, pediatrician from Minneapolis, placed a stethoscope on a small child's chest

bolster care in far-flung republic

and listened at the moment of its heart's last beat. She turned to the girl's mother and spoke softly, her Maldivian assistant translating. The mother touched her child and turned away. "Sometimes it's difficult," Warwick said. Other times, however, her experiences were far more pleasant, particularly at the child care clinic.

"Much of what I do is reassure parents their children are healthy, growing well and doing the things they ought to for their age," she said, holding a toddler on her lap.

According to Warwick, developmental milestones for Maldivian babies are the same as for American babies. "Babies is babies," she quipped smiling, "sort of generic, worldwide." Although the children were well-fed, dietary differences did exist. "They don't really have baby food here," she said, "so they start on rice between two to six months of age, which is fine."

Medical care in the Maldives is at a very basic level. Although doctors and nurses receive excellent medical training, usually in India or Pakistan, they lack the equipment, drugs and follow-on services for many life saving procedures. Pay for the medical professions is low. Skilled physicians receive an equivalent of $200 U.S. dollars a month. Their salaries are barely competitive with school teachers or government officials.

"We work to help our people," said a Maldivian health care worker, "but it is sometimes difficult to encourage people to go for training. The pay is so low."

"The Reservists also came to the Maldives to engage in a seminar on Islam and the medical care of women," said Mendrey. "On one level we Westerners tend to see the religion as violent. On another level, though, it's very orderly and nonviolent, stressing harmonious life with family, neighbors and community." Violence and trauma are very rare in this nation, and crime is extremely low. What crime does exist is punished with severity and speed. "They have a jail island," said Collins, "and stealing a bicycle will bring you a six month sentence. And you don't escape. Here, deterrence works."

Such orderly life does not come without cost. Men head the household and have quite different rights and responsiblities which can be stressful for many Maldivian women. A man, for instance, may have as many as four wives and can divorce any by simply telling her, "I no longer want you for my wife. I divorce you." He can take the children with him after the divorce, and courts of law tend to favor him in decisions.

Such strain leads to a significant number of psychosomatic illnesses in the women that Mendrey sees. "They often come in at night," she said. "The women complain of abdominal pain. Chronic pain for the past two to eight years." With few outlets such as support groups or counseling, their anxiety and depression comes out in abdominal pain, she noted. Valium is prescribed like aspirin here," she added. Many Maldivians also chew betel nut, a mild narcotic stimulant that stains the teeth first red, then black, and causes severe dental problems. "This man's tooth split in half, all the way down to the roots when he chomped down on a betel nut,' said Capt. Gregg Lehman, a dentist from St. Cloud, Minn., as he probed the man's now-numb mouth.

"When we came here this morning he was wishing he hadn't done that." The Maldives have two dentists serving over 60,000 people, severely limiting the amount of preventive dental care available. Cleaning teeth stained with betel nuts requires as many as four visits. Islanders commonly brush with powdered coral and their finger, which over time flattens and grinds down the teeth. Gum disease affects many. "Most of what I do here is extractions," said Lehman. The dental clinic charges four *rufiyaa*, about 40 cents, to pull a tooth, and people save up and come in for whatever they can afford. When the equipment works."

Capt. (Dr.) Clyde Markon and Capt. Debra Thilgen make their daily rounds in Central Hospital in Male during their Annual; Training in the Maldive Islands.

(Photo by Lt. Col. Jim Nielsen)

Ready for technical glitches

"The dental gods were not smiling today," Lehman said that evening at dinner. "I got there early and the suction went out. Then the compressor almost blew. So I moved to the other office and the suction went out there too." The Minnesota Army Reservists were prepared for the equipment problems they had come to expect from similar problems found in earlier deployments. Two team members,

see MALDIVES on page 27

What to do when a Reservist or retiree dies?

Knowing who to

St. Louis, Mo. — Officials of the Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) are reaching out to the families of Reserve soldiers and Army retirees with somber — but important — advice about what they should do if their soldier dies.

"Nobody likes to think about these things, but we're concerned that Army Reserve and Army retiree families may not know what to do, and who to call," said Col. Winslow Griffin, ARPERCEN Personnel Actions Director.

"Families should take this article and put it away in a safe place," Griffin advised.

While it is a well-known fact that ARPERCEN is responsible for the personnel management of many categories of Army Reserve soldiers, it is not widely realized that it also has the responsiblity for retirees from

call can make the living easier

all Army components, including the active Army, the Army National Guard, and the Army Reserve.

Griffin noted that there is no single office responsible for casualty notification or for information on benefits that might be available to survivors. Instead, he said, the place to call for death notification — and where to ask about benefits — depends on the status of the soldier when he or she died, and the prior active duty that the soldier may have had.

This review itemizes each possible reserve and retired status — and for each status — answers the "who do I call" question and summarizes potentially available benefits.

■ **Reservists on active duty or in an active training status.**

(Reservists who are on active duty, or who are participating in inactive duty training (IDT) — either paid "drill" or non-paid training for retirement points — are considered in an active training status during and while traveling to and from, their duties.)

Notify: the soldier's unit commander, who is responsible for notifying the chain of command.

Benefits: Some or all of the following benefits MAY apply:
— A death gratuity
— Dependent's Indemnity Compensation
— Servicemen's Group Life Insurance
— A variety of Veterans' benefits, administrered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (only if the soldier was a veteran of the active duty military).
— Survivor benefits (only if the soldier had completed 20 years of qualifying service and elected the appropriate options provided for survivors.)

■ **Honorary Retirees.**

(Honorary Retirees are those soldiers who asked to be placed in this special status, which was a program for Reservists, whose service ended before they could qualify for a pension at age 60. The program has been closed to new entries for many years.)

Notify: ARPERCEN's Personnel Services Division, Casualty Section at 1-(800) 648-5486.

Benefits: A variety of veterans' benefits administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) only if the soldier was a veteran of the active duty military.

■ **Member of the Retired Reserve not yet 60 years af age, but who have qualified for retired pay at age 60.**

(These Retired Reserve soldiers not yet 60 years of age are the so-called "Gray Area" Retirees.)

Notify: ARPERCEN's Retired Activities Division at 1-(800) 325-8311 or any nearby Army installation's Personnel Service Center.

Benefits: Under the Survivor Benefit Plan, survivors may receive an annuity — a portion of the pension — which the soldier would have received at age 60 (only if the soldier selected the appropriate options upon his or her completion of 20 years of qualifying service).
— A variety of veterans' benefits administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) only if the soldier was a veteran of the active duty military.

■ **Retired soldiers receiving retired pay.**

(Including all retired soldiers of the active Army, Army Naitonal Guard the Army Reserve.)

Notify: Chief, U.S. Army Finance & Accounting Center, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., (800) 428-2290, or any nearby Army installation's

see CALL on page 27

Frequently-asked questions concerning Reservists' benefits

Q) What if I am not certain what status my soldier was in at the time of death? How do I determine his or her status?
A) Contact the ARPERCEN Casualty Section for verification of status at (800) 648-5486.

Q) Am I entitled to a Survivor Assistance Officer (SAO)?
A) If the deceased soldier was drawing retired pay, or dies on active or inactive duty for training, the next-of-kin is entitled to a Survivor Assistance Officer (SAO). They should contact the nearest military installation for this help.

Q) Are deceased family members eligible for burial in a National Cemetery?
A) The spouse and minor children of active duty deceased soldiers are eligible for burial in a National Cemetery. The funeral home is advised to contact Army Cemetery Services, Washington, D.C., (202) 275-1450/51/52, for certification. For information on any additional benefits that might be due, contact the nearest Social Security and Department of Veterans Affairs offices.

Q) How do I obtain verification of military service for a deceased Reservist or retired soldier?
A) Contact the ARPERCEN Casualty Section at 1 (800) 648-5486 and request a complete statement of service. You'll have to follow up in writing; include a copy of the death certificate with your request.

Q) How do I stop getting mail for a deceased soldier?
A) To stop ARPERCEN computer-generated mail, forward a copy of the death certificate to the following address: Commander, ARPERCEN, ATTN: DARP-PAS-AC, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5200. The Privacy Act of 1974 requires a written notification of the death of a soldier.

Q) The deceased has a document that states he or she had insurance while in the service. How do I go about collecting?
A) Forward the following information by letter to Commander, ARPERCEN, ATTN: DARP-PAS-AC, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5200: name of the soldier, social security number, and a copy of the death certificate. Also include an address for return correspondence.

New system smooths training tours

St. Louis, Mo. — In June 1988, Brig. Gen. Paul Babiak — then commander of the Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) — met with a group of junior Army Reserve officers to discuss the ARPERCEN of the future.

Included in Babiak's crystal ball was a dim and distant day when personnel managers here would merely push a button to view detailed personal information about a soldier wanting to train. They'd push a second button to match that soldier with available training assignments. Reviewing and approval officials would be able to scrutinize the work electronically, and push a few more buttons to produce an order.

That — and a lot more — became reality at ARPERCEN just 15 months after Babiak pondered the future.

Now, ARPERCEN personnel officers and NCOs, and the military personnel clerks who work with them, are beginning to push buttons and to produce the orders electronically through AORS — the ARPERCEN Orders System.

Replacing the aged and cumbersome Integrated Tour Control System (ITCS), AORS is eliminating the slow physical handling of requests for orders by a variety of staff elements. Now, whoever needs to check the pending order does so electronically. Proponents say, AORS is providing positive control over complex personnel actions and elusive training dollars.

A fundamental change

"AORS is a fundamental shift of the way this building does business," according to Maj. Terrance Spoon, the AORS Functional Project Officer.

Spoon points out that the roots of AORS began some four years ago. ITCS, the old system, was not only slow and cumbersome, it didn't let ARPERCEN track training dollars effectively.

"If you were around here for **Operation SCRUB**, you know what I mean," said Spoon.

(SCRUB was an all-out ARPERCEN effort to track down scarce training dollars late in 1987. For the better part of two weeks, most of the command's soldiers and many of it's civilians put in 18 hour days manually auditing the year's huge volume of orders. — ed.)

Work on AORS began in earnest during the fall of 1988. A team, made up of both technical people and representatives of the ARPERCEN staffs, supported by several contract firms that would use the new system, tackled the problem. Their work began to bear fruit in September, when the first order appeared.

Changeover from ITCS to AORS was not without its problems. "It's taking some time for people to learn the new procedures," says Spoon, who also noted that not everyone was finding the system "user friendly." Some problems were noted in accessing the several screens that users work through to produce an order. Another problem is that there aren't as many terminals available on which to work AORS as users would like.

"Like anything else new, we've got some bugs to work out," said Spoon, "but people are learning quickly. Once you learn it, it has the capability to do in five minutes what used to take 48 hours."

Then and now

In the "old days" under ITCS, getting an order was a paperwork drill that took at least two days. And that's when everything worked right.

Personnel managers manually matched training opportunities with soldiers available to train. Once the manager found the right soldier, he or she requested an automated document called a "pre-edit" to check personnel data and the soldier's training tour history. Manual checking and rechecking was necessary to make sure that the soldier was eligible to train, had an up-to-date physical, and was otherwise ready to go.

Next, the manager manually prepared a request for orders, entering information, letter by letter, in pen. The request, or RFO, then passed through many hands, each of which added furhter checks and data entries. On and on the RFO would go, from branch chief to division operations to directorate budget officer, to training support. Then, and only then, was the data on it entered into the computer — and if everything was correct, an order would appear the next day.

Now, under AORS, it all happens electronically. The personnel manager works through a number of screens, each of which is menu driven. The manager enters the soldier's social security number, and presto — personnel data and tour history appears, the electronic equivalent of the old pre-edit.

On the spot fixes

Anything out of kilter — an outdated physical for instance — will show up on the screen highlighted. And if the manager has better or more recent information, he or she can correct it on the spot.

Another screen shows training opportunities available for the soldier, matched the soldier's specialty. Linking the social security number with the training opportunity provides the core of the electronic request for orders.

Next comes a screen revealing the travel and pay costs for the individual soldier's tour. The personnel manager enters the information. Then comes a screen allowing the manager to add special instructions to the order.

Next up is a screen bearing approval blocks and financial information. The approval process is electronic, and can be accomplished much faster than in the old paper toting days. This screen reflects who's seen the electronic RFO and who's not; there will be no more digging through the stacks of paperwork trying to track an RFO.

A final set of screens shows the order as it will actually appear, and allows for further quality control.

"The core of the order can be made up while the personnel manager is on the phone with the soldier," says Spoon.

Of equal importance with speed and accuracy, AORS tracks the training dollars, produces reports to show exactly how much is being spent.

"Program execution should be much better, much more effective," Spoon says and all of this is just Phase I of the AORS project.

What is ARPERCEN?

The U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) is a field operating agencey of the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve. It performs a wide variety of missions on behalf of Army Reservists, particularly Individual Ready Reservists (IRR), Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) and Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) soldiers.

Commander, ARPERCEN
Attn.: DARP-_____*
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

***If you do not know the correct "Attention" symbol, omit the attention line.**

When requesting assistance from ARPERCEN, be sure to include your social security number and sign your letter.

Call

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Personnel Services Center.

Benefits: Some, all, or none of the following MAY apply:
— Survivor Benefits (only if the soldier completed 20 years of qualifying service and elected the appropriate options)
— Insurance converted from Servicemen's Group Life insurance (only if the soldier converted the SGLI to private insurance).
— Veterans benfits administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) only if the soldier was a veteran of the active duty military.

■ **Individual Ready Reserve soldiers, or Standby Reserve Active List soldiers NOT in an active training status.**

(Includes IRR or Standby Reserve Active List soldiers who are not on active duty, are not performing inactive duty training, and who are not traveling to or from avtive duty or inactive duty training.)

Notify: ARPERCEN Personnel Service Division's Causalty Section at (800) 648-5486.

Benefits: Either of the following MAY apply:
— Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (only if the soldier was attached to a unit for points-only training and had voluntarily applied for — and had been paying the premiums for — SGLI coverage.
— Veterans' benefits administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) only if the soldier was a veteran of the active duty military.

■ **Troop Program Unit soldier NOT in an active training status.**

Notify: The soldier's unit of assignment, which is responsible for notifying the chain of command.

Benefits: — Servicemen's Group Life Insurance.
— Veterans benefits administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) only if the soldier was a veteran of the active duty military.
— Survivor Benefits (only if the soldier has at least 20 years of qualifying service and elected the appropriate options).

■ **Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) NOT in an active training status.**

Notify: ARPERCEN Personnel Services Division's Casualty Section at (800) 648-5486.

Benefits: Either of the following MAY apply:
— Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (only if the soldier was a member of the drilling IMA program, was assigned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or was attached to a unit for unpaid inactive duty training for retirement points and who voluntarily applied for — and paid for — SGLI coverage).
— Survivor benefits (only if the soldier has at least 20 years of qualifying service and elected the appropriate options).
— Veterans' benefits administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) only if the soldier was a veteran of the active duty military.

Maldives

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SSgt. Paul Muellce of Billings, Mont. and Sgt. Brian Lind of White Bear Lake, Minn. are biomedical equipment repairmen. "They have repaired, salvaged and calibrated an enormous amount of medical equipment since they've been here," said Collins. "In many ways their impact on the hospital and its patients will be felt the longest."

On final rounds, Markon and Thilgen walked into the hospital ward. Patients and families watched as they approached Ali's bed.

"Let's go for a walk, Ali," Markon said as he tugged on the boy's hand. Ali rose with staggering steps and they walked and shuffled past the two thin elderly patients sharing his cubicle. The boy, eyes still wide, stepped from the gloom into a small courtyard. "A little bit better today, Ali," said Markon. The boy stumbled and shuffled toward Thilgen.

"Every day he's about five percent better. He'll make it home one day."

(Lt. Col. Nielsen is assigned as an AGR Public Affairs Officer with USARPAC, Ft. Shafter, Hawaii)

NDU

continued from page 5

DoD personnel from all services and agencies with a side range of computer related education and training.

In 1988, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) recognized that DoD must improve dramatically the way in which its automated information systems were managed. It also recognized that this would require an equally dramatic improvement in the education, training and technical assistance that was being provided to program managers, their staffs, and senior executives with IRM responsibilities.

To achieve the necessary improvement, plans were developed by OSD and NDU to upgrade, reorient, relocate, and rename the Institute. The implementation of these plans has totally transformed the level and focus of DODCI's curriculum and faculty and has resulted in the redefining of its mission and purpose.

IRMC's mission and purpose is to:

■ Develop and teach IRM courses for NDU colleges.

■ Provide education and training to IRM Program Managers and their staffs.

■ Provide education and training to senior executives with IRM responsibilities.

■ Provide technical assistance to IRM Program Managers and their staffs.

■ Perform think-tank and applied research assignments related to IRM policy and,

■ Facilitate IRM research, scholarship, and intellectual exchange.

The implementation of the plans that were developed in 1988 and 1989 will continue. IRMC's Advanced Management Program began in September, 1990; IRMC's ability to perform think-tank and applied research assignments will be further developed; and in 1992, IRMC will relocate to NDU's Ft. McNair campus, in Washington, D.C.

NTC

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Robbins attributes the composite company's success to the long, hard preparation that was done before departing home station and the high quality of the soldiers who volunteered for the assignment.

"Tactically, this company has come a long way, and may well be the best company on Ft. Irwin," Robbins asserted.

(Capt. Yesko and SSgt. McMahon are assigned to the Public Affairs Office of the 157th Separate Infantry Bde., Horsham, Pa.)

FORUM

Gray Area's not solved

In **ARMY RESERVE Magazine's** Fourth Issue of 1990, you responded to a letter from MSgt. Alan R. Feinberg stating the "gray area" problem has been solved.

I, and many other "gray area" retirees from all services, disagree.

We feel the benefits recently authorized (unlimited use of MWR and exchange facilities plus 12 days of commissary usage annually) fall short of those earned through over 20 years of service to our nation.

I have forwarded an issue paper to various members of Congress and the Chairman, Reserve Forces Policy Board urging the provision of all no-cost benefits to not only "gray area" retirees, but also to members of the selected reserve.

I have received several very favorable responses to my letters. As a result of the lessons learned from **Operations Desert Shield** and **Desert Storm**, the reserve components have been confirmed as a critical part of the Total Force. Provision of these benefits would be a visible recognition for Reservists' dedication and service, while creating no financial obligation to the government. In fact, in the case of the commissary, it could hasten self-sufficiency of the commissary system.

I understand that your magazine's mission is to provide information to members of the Army Reserve and not to be a forum for political change and I hope my thoughts are construed as personal opinion and would be printed as a presentation of another view on reserve component benefits. My hope is to influence others, both active and retired, to become more actively involved in the "battle" for increased recognition for individual Reservists.

My wife and I are happy with the benefits recently authorized us. I can fully empathize with MSgt. Feinberg and others. My move into the "gray area" in 1988 was the result of mandatory removal for maximum years of service. At age 51, after nearly 35 years of enlisted and commissioned service, I had became a non-person in the eyes of the Army until September 1996. The new status as a partial person is welcome.

I would now like to see us go the rest of the way and obtain all non-monetary retirement benefits prior to age 60.

Col. (Ret.) Claiborne W. Cowgill
Tucson, Ariz.

WESTAT comment

After reading the article on the WESTAT Study on reserve retention, I felt compelled to comment on my personal experience and feelings on the subject.

Low pay and slow promotion were listed in the article as the primary reasons for the attrition of the junior enlisted. I agree completely.

I believe that in the minds of most soldiers, retention and promotion is an issue that is inextricably linked. After all, what are the reasons for giving years of hard work and dedicated service? Where are the rewards? Promotion. Without that, the Army offers only the incentive of a paycheck. It becomes a job, not a career. Like many soldiers, I find it difficult to believe that the Army cares so little about the skills and experience that we've sweated so long to acquire. It was always assumed that the problem would take care of itself. Now that my enlistment is nearly over, I feel somewhat depressed that I have so little to show for in those six years of service: only a stack of LESs and a few disappointments.

Time doesn't stand still, and so must we move on. Sadly, the option of leaving the Army is fast becoming the best option. I've been an E4 since 1985. I'm a level two linguist in Russian and Spanish, Defense Language Institute grad, MOS qualified 97E (interrogator), a college grad (B.S. in Business Administration from Ohio State University, 1983), and presently employed as a special agent with I&NS, Department of Justice. I'm having my unit disbanded in September '90, and now I have to get a new MOS and start all over from the ground up, what a system.

Spec. Merle E. Stethem
San Diego, Calif.

Second chance to do it right!

It was late. We had just arrived at the Oakland Army Terminal from Travis Air Force Base [California]. It had been a long, quiet trip home from Vietnam and everyone was in a kind of trance. How can you explain the numbing feeling of moving from a war zone to the good old U.S.A. in such a short time?

We moved like drugged cattle through the out-processing stations. The late hour took its toll on everyone; processors and processees alike. No one said much of anything — few questions with fewer answers.

Then we were off to the buses to San Francisco [International] Airport where we saw antiwar demonstrators with their signs for the first time: young, old, some neat, most seemed ragged. In fact, the people and how they looked were of more interest than the signs. We were all in our Class As with duffle bags and many other last minute treasures picked up in Tokyo, Guam, or Hawaii, depending on which way [our airplanes had come]. We moved off the bus, gathered our bags, and headed into the terminal to finalize our flights for that trip . . . home.

Then it started. The demonstrators, protesting the war, started the heckling, the cat calls and targeted their efforts. . .towards me and my fellow soldiers.

Amazement became confusion, then grew to anger. Not many of us said anything until the protestors walked up to us individually, and yelled in our faces: "Baby killers! War mongers! Murderers!" and many more vicious statements.

Most of us were shocked. Then the unbelievable happened. A few spit on us, and more threw eggs. The yelling turned to pushing and the pushing to struggles. A San Francisco police officer and two airport security police stepped in, took control and tried to sort out the fights. To our surprise, the officers said, "Soldiers, if you expect to get home in one piece, you'd better change into civilian clothes. It could be a long, dangerous trip in those uniforms!"

I was shocked.

About ten of us, headed into the men's room to change. Anger was replaced by pain — a deep pain in the gut; one that remains even today. One that won't go away. Yes, we've all worked hard to bury it . . .bury it deep. Some of us have been able to live with it festering inside; [others have] dug it out and dealt with it. But it hurt, and it hurt badly.

So today. . .we are bringing those we sent to fight this war home. Home, I hope, to a painless reception: to a good old-fashioned American welcome, with Old Glory flying, bands playing, parades, speeches and lots of hugs. Especially lots of hugs.

If we don't, we, our society will pay the price again for many years.

In addition to the many local welcoming home ceremonies that will continue over the next few months, we should also plan for a national welcome home ceremony.

All of the support groups and organizations that did so well getting our heroes ready to go and then sent them off to this war should work just as hard, if not harder, to welcome them home.

It doesn't make a difference if they were grunts, tankers, truck drivers, pilots, mechanics, medics, front line fighters, or rear area supporters, in the air, out at sea or on the ground in Southwest Asia, Europe or in the U.S.A. They will all need a good old-fashioned, all-American welcome home.

This is our part to play. Let us all ensure we do it right because they deserve it. Just as our leaders, who planned the strategy and tactics for the conflict, recall their experiences from Vietnam, let us, all Americans, also remember the lessons learned from Vietnam and work hard to go the extra mile. Go over

board to welcome the troops home in a grand way. We will be a better country if we do.

After Vietnam, there was a saying. [It went,] "Memories forged in the heat of combat, refined by the pains of wounds, and sustained by the alienation of our society cannot (or will not) be forgotten."

Well, combat and wounds are a sad, but unavoidable part of war. Alienation and rejection by our society, of these great patriots, these great Americans is not. It is our responsibility, those of us who have suffered and, I hope, are wiser as a result to ensure it doesn't happen ever again.

So, let's plan to strike up the band, wave the flag, listen to their heartbeat so we don't miss their feelings, and welcome them home. Home to their jobs, to their schools, to their communities, to their families and loved ones. [Welcome them] with parades, speeches, lots of hugs, and yes, even some tears.

Remember, these soldiers have worked for it the old fashioned way — they've earned it!

Brig. Gen. Roger C. Bultman
Deputy Chief, USAR

Though we did not have a chance to run Brig. Gen. Bultman's letter (written in March of this year) in our last issue, it still contains a message that rings true, not only for those Reservists who have yet to be welcomed home, but for all those Americans who may be committed to the defense of American interests in the future.

Happily, it appears that the depth and importance of his concerns (and those of many other "under-recognized" Vietnam veterans) have been understood and satisfied judging from the warm homecomings and adulation received by our soldiers around the country. There need be no shame in carrying out this Nation's legimate policies. Neither should there be shame in winning a just fight.

We hope that those Reservists who have not yet had the chance to bask in the warmth of their own personal sacrifices will not be forgotten by their Nation and their hometowns in the weeks to come.

The writer served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970.

Not an atoll at all

The article about USAR help to Christmas Islanders (**ARMY RESERVE Magazine**, Second Issue 1990), was very welcome and interesting because few are published about this beautiful, wide-open part of the world.

One correction is in order. Christmas is not an atoll. I live and work on the worlds largest atoll, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands. The boomerang shaped lagoon of about 1,350 square kilometers is enclosed by a coral reef about 238 kilometers long. A Kwajalein Map is enclosed.

Donald G. Boyd
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands

Thanks for the correction. We rather believed that we really were not very well-informed about the South Pacific and now we are sure that we know very little atoll about it. Uggh!

Combat engineers?

As an engineer, I especially enjoyed **ARMY RESERVE Magazine's** third issue of 1990. This issue really featured engineering. The issue does get one dart for depicting the engineers as a combat support branch on page 17. On September 10, 1975 the Army designated the engineers as a combat arm. This 1975 action was a redesignation, as the engineers were both an arm and a service until 1969.

AR 10-6 defines a "combat arm" as a branch "whose officers are directly involved in the conduct of actual fighting." All engineers I know are proud to point out that the combined arms team embodies tank-infantry-artillery-engineer arms. This team is vital for success on the modern battlefield.

AR 10-6 also designates the engineers as both a combat support and combat service support branch. Holding all three designations is unique, however, it is usual to refer to engineers as a combat arm instead of combat support branch.

Lt. Col. Douglas K. Lehmann
Falls Church, Virginia

We're subscribers to the older, more traditional concept that the mission of the combat arms branches is to close with and destroy the enemy by direct means. The Airland Battlefield has *muddled these older distinctions however.*

Linguistic assist

I have noticed several items in previous issues that have brought many good ideas and suggestions that have been of help. Some of us here at Ft. Lewis have found a program that has helped us to improve and practice our foreign language skills, so I thought I would pass it along.

It is an international correspondence organization which has members in 154 countries and allows you to write in English and about 22 other languages.

Of course some of the guys used to get in contact with people in places where they have been stationed or will be stationed, but I think that it is a great way to use those language skills that we take so long to obtain and then slowly lose.

Their address to obtain info is: I.P.F., 7811 SE 27th — Suite 106, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Hope it helps others like it has for us.

Spec K.B. Bradley
Ft. Lewis, Wash.

Thanks for the tip.

Not all points are created equal

I am a Army Reservist assigned to the 438th Chemical Detachment located in Beaumont, Texas . During the 1990 Training Year I will have to be a non-participant in a total of five MUTAs.

The problem is that I can foresee the difficulty in RSTing those assemblies. However, I am also an active participant in the Army Correspondence Course Program. To make 1990 a "good year" toward retirement , I believe I can count the hours I have completed in the Army Correspondence Course Program during 1990, and substitute these hours toward the points needed to make 1990 a good year toward retirement.

My question is this, is this true? And, if so, what is the procedure to accomplish this task? Any information or guidance your staff can provide in this area will be greatly appreciated.

SSgt Terry E. Meighen
Beaumont, Texas

The short answer is "probably, but it's not a good idea". ARPERCEN's Policy Coordination Office says that points earned from correspondence courses may not be substituted for missed drills. The only way to make up missed drills is by performing RST or ET.

However, points earned from completing correspondence courses may be added to active and inactive duty points to attain a "qualifying" year for retirement. Using this method is not a good practice for TPU soldiers. Unit cohesion and training effectiveness cannot be accomplished without active participation by all assigned soldiers. Remember, if the unit commander exercises his "unsatisfactory participant" option, building good years toward retirement becomes considerably more difficult.

Experiential credits tough to judge

We read with interest the article on page

24 of your first issue 1990, by MSgt. R.S. Johnson. With all due respect to MSgt. Johnson, the article is a prime example of poor educational counseling.

This type of counseling is something colleges, in Mercer's case the last 20-odd years, have had to contend with when conducting experiential evaluations. MSgt. Johnson seems to have ignored several things in his article, primarily the dates of MOS award, dates schools were attended, both of which would radically affect the amount, type and level (vocational, lower division, upper division and graduate) of credit to be awarded.

For example, refer to the Personnel Administration Technical Course, AR 1406-0062. MSgt. Johnson states that 11 credits will be awarded. If his Sgt. Smith attended the school anywhere from 1986 to present, no credit would be awarded as the course is pending an evaluation by the American Council on Education. If she attended the course 1982-1986, four credits could be awarded in the lower division and seven in the upper division. As a college can only award credit to the highest degree awarded, Sgt. Smith, if evaluated by Mercer, would probably receive four credits. All 11 might be awarded by a four year school.

As to the six credits to be awarded for the Civilian Employees Management Development course, we assume MSgt. Johnson is referring to PONSI recommendations, thus the credits may or may not be awarded depending upon the college. Not all accept PONSI recommendations.

To summarize, based only on the article, Mercer could have awarded to Sgt. Smith (assuming everything mentioned dates from 1982) either 11 or 17 credits instead of MSgt. Johnson's computation of 31, somewhat of a difference. The results would leave the applicant for credit some what confused, we are sure. We have only touched upon a few of the misleading statements, however, we would be remiss if we didn't point out a misconception also reinforced by in the article "Don't Pay for What You Can Get For Free". The article states "There is no charge to have your experiences evaluated by a college or university, etc". We think the author would find upon checking, that few, if any, colleges do not charge an evaluation fee in one form or another.

Johnson Roney III
Senior Admissions Officer

Maj. (Ret.) Paul Scheid
Faculty Liaison

Servicemembers' Degree Program
Mercer County Community College
Trenton, N.J.

Yes, you do have rights, but . . .

I would like to take this opportunity to clear up for you and other Reservists the very confusing matter on Veteran Reemployment Rights [surfaced in a letter run in *FORUM* in the last issue of **ARMY RESERVE Magazine**].

The statute that governs the issue is [Chapter] 38 U.S.C. sub-sections 2021-2024. It is very precise and specific. It protects the veteran's rights to *take military leave and to be reemployed after military leave.* It is the federal courts' *interpretations* of this statute that have made it such a "Pandora's Box."

The difficulties all started in the ***LEE v. PENSACOLA*** case in which a Reservist's privately retained attorney agreed to a test of reasonableness being introduced. The court ruled that reasonableness was a factor [for the employer] and that the Reservist, who wanted to complete some additional phases of training, was unreasonable, since these courses could have been completed later etc., etc. (never mind quota availability, etc.)

This now meant that before going on a tour a Reservist and his boss had to agree that the tour was reasonable and, if there was a disagreement, the courts were to decide. In plain words, the Reservist was only protected if his boss did not challenge him or, if challenged, the soldier went to court. The only reason that more employers do not challenge Reservists' training requests, is due to ignorance, inconvenience, fear of bad publicity or the expense of litigation.

Your right to leave is entirely dependent on your employer's good will!

The scales at first seem to favor you, the Reservist. After all, aren't the Departments of Labor and Justice behind you? The answer to that is a resounding **MAYBE**.

The DOL is your first official contact. Agents will take your complaint and start a file. They will then try "jawboning" your employer into doing the right thing. If that does not work, they **MAY** recommend your case to the Department of Justice for legal action.

Justice then must decide whether or not it wants to take your case and, in my experience, will take your case only if it thinks it worthy and it thinks it can win, or if there is some political pressure from above to make a point.

It is possible that your employer may, at any stage of this process, either take you back or make you a cash offer. The usual rate has been about $10,000. At this time, most Reservists rightfully grab the money and run. (The duration between being fired and this offer is usually 18 to 36 months.)

If, however, you are stubborn, and the Justice Department hasn't agreed to help you, then you can retain an attorney — and go it on your own at your own expense.

I want to caution you that if you take the last option and you win, you are only entitled to your old job back along with back pay, minus anything you received from either unemployment or other employment. You are not entitled to any punitive damages or the *cost of your attorney.*

So even if you do win you still may lose. You are entitled to interest on the [back pay], but at six-percent, when you might have had to borrow at 18 [to get this far].

Is it any wonder, that most Reservists and most attorneys will not bother to go to court? Even if you win, the process is still subject to appeal, all the way to the Supreme Court, if the employer feels like it.

I was fired [based upon reserve duty] in 1985 and my case has been heard three times. The original district court ruled in my favor. My employer appealed. The appeals court sent my case back to the district court. In February, 1991, the district court again ruled in my favor, stating that I acted reasonably and that my employer had not. Whether this is the end of the matter, I still don't know.

I am still out my back pay and should I win, still have to pay my attorney approximately $40,000 out of pocket. I have had to liquidate investments early and at a penalty. I have had to borrow money. I have suffered considerable anguish.

Would I do it again? You bet I would.

Lt. Col. Kestutis Eidukonis
East Stroudsburg, Pa.

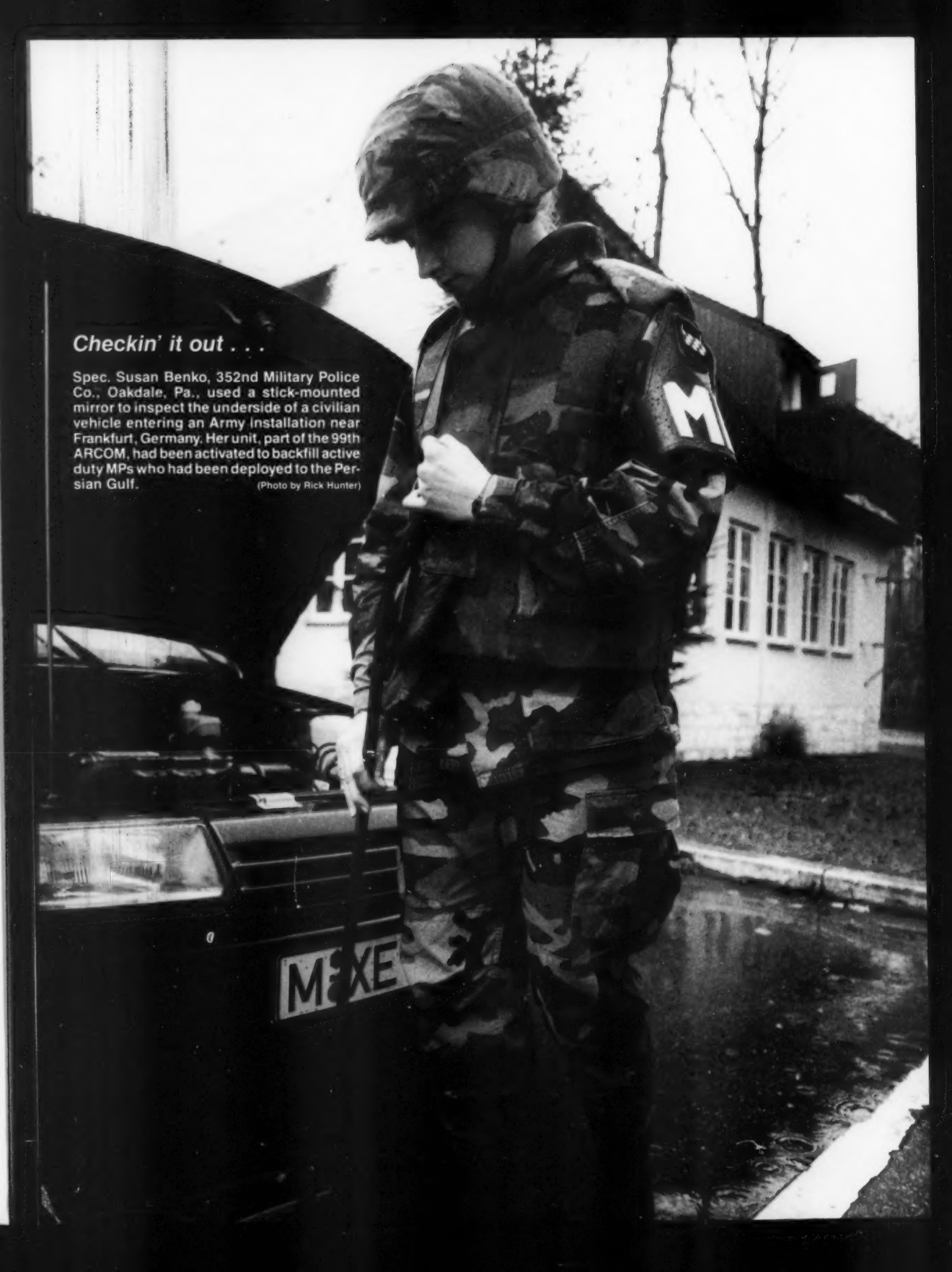
Overseas commissary

In a story appearing in your magazine late in 1989 dealing with commissary access rules you advise that all members of the Selected Reserve and their family members may use the DD Form 2529 to make up to 12 discretionary visits to a commissary each year.

Your readers may want to know that the statement applies [overseas] only to commissaries not subject to Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA). For soldiers living near or visiting most facilities in Europe or Asia commissary access, when not on active duty, is not permitted under SOFA.

To avoid disappointment, I'd recommend members contact the overseas commissary in question before visiting.

Lt. Col. James N. Meade
St. Louis, Mo.



Checkin' it out . . .

Spec. Susan Benko, 352nd Military Police Co., Oakdale, Pa., used a stick-mounted mirror to inspect the underside of a civilian vehicle entering an Army installation near Frankfurt, Germany. Her unit, part of the 99th ARCOM, had been activated to backfill active duty MPs who had been deployed to the Persian Gulf. (Photo by Rick Hunter)

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